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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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11 July 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 11 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Inward Investment Report

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): With my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am pleased to announce that UK Trade & Investment today launched the UK Inward Investment 2010/11 Report, giving the national figures for foreign direct investment over the financial year to March 2011.

Investment matters. It is a key priority if we are to secure the economic growth that will deliver future prosperity. The UK's ability to attract and retain inward investment is at the heart of the Government's economic recovery plans. These figures demonstrate how important investment is in stimulating growth and creating jobs.

In a year when inward investment is recovering from global uncertainty the UK has recorded a strong performance, attracting foreign investment from 54 countries between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

During the year ending March 2011, 1,434 investment projects landed in the UK. This is one of the highest figures ever recorded, although it is down on the previous year. The reduction is largely due to the continuing decline in mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures in a still difficult global marketplace.

These foreign direct investment projects created and safeguarded an estimated 94,598 jobs. This means that over 1,800 jobs were created or safeguarded every week through inward investment in this country. This is a slight (0.3%) increase on the previous year. Of the total, an estimated 41,936 were newly created jobs and 52,662 were safeguarded jobs.

In these results, the existing investor base in the UK has provided a vote of confidence in the UK. Two thirds of the new jobs—over 27,000—were generated by existing investors in the UK. This is a rise of 60% on the previous year.

The UK has to earn its standing in the world, not in isolation but with the whole of Government working together to improve further the UK's world-leading business environment and our offer to international business.

UK Trade & Investment is the Government Department responsible for supporting international business, working closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and other public and private sector partners. In a year when competition for internationally mobile foreign direct investment is more fierce than ever, UK Trade & Investment is to be congratulated on significantly assisting a record number of foreign direct investment projects, (at 849, more than half of the total projects locating in the UK). UKTI's inward investment successes have increased very substantially in both quantity and quality over the last three years. I and my right hon. Friend are determined that UKTI will continue significantly to increase the positive impact of its inward investment work on the UK economy over the next several years.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment 2010/11 Report by UK Trade & Investment to be placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

S4C (Funding)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): On 14 October 2010, as part of the cross-Government drive to reduce the number and cost of public bodies and to improve their accountability, the Government announced their proposal to reform the funding mechanism for S4C by removing the link with the retail price index (RPI), as set out in section 61 of the Broadcasting Act 1990. The reform is necessary because guaranteed, inflation-proof funding from the Government is untenable in the current fiscal climate, but this does not detract from the Government's firm commitment to secure the future of Welsh language broadcasting.

It is now the Government's intention to table an amendment after Second Reading of the Public Bodies Bill which will add the relevant provision for removing the RPI/funding link to the face of the Bill, instead of in schedule 4, as at present. The decision to reduce payments to S4C was taken as part of the comprehensive spending review in line with efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit as early as possible. It predated the requirement to consult on orders which was added to the Public Bodies Bill at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. However, the implication is that the Government would not be able to consult meaningfully in relation to the changes to funding arrangements as would have been required by clause 10 of the Bill.

This amendment does not impact on the Government's commitment to consult publicly on changes to the governance arrangements to S4C. It is simply a change to the proposed legislative mechanism by which funding changes will be made. Indeed, it gives Parliament the opportunity to debate the change as part of the passage of primary legislation. This amendment will also give greater clarity and assurance on the Government's commitment to S4C in the long term. The new clause will for the first time set in statute a requirement that S4C receives sufficient funding for it to be able to fulfil its statutory, and vitally important, role as an independent Welsh language broadcaster.

As S4C remains listed in schedule 3 of the Bill, which provides for the power to modify constitutional arrangements, there is still the requirement under clause 10 of the Bill to consult on the order that will change the broadcaster's governance arrangements. The Government will make an announcement about this consultation in due course. In the interim, discussions with S4C and the BBC Trust on the details of the partnership model are ongoing, and progress is encouraging following the appointment of the new chair of S4C.

I should like to reiterate that there is no change to the Government's unerring commitment to a strong future for Welsh language programming and to S4C as an independent service. The Government are committed to ensuring that S4C will be funded at a level sufficient to ensure that it can fulfil its statutory remit and we intend to put this expectation on the statute book so that it is a legal requirement. Furthermore, the Government have also committed to a review of S4C's strategy and finances before the end of the comprehensive spending review period, in order to inform future funding levels for S4C and to ensure that the new partnership with the BBC represents the best model for the long-term stability and growth of S4C.

DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Key priorities for 2011-12 have been set for the chief constable/chief executive of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA). These priorities are linked to the delivery of the agency's key outputs of providing an effective policing and guarding service. In brief, the eight key priorities are:

KEY PRIORITY 1

To support the secure and uninterrupted operation of the UK's nuclear deterrent

a. To retain substantial assurance from the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Strategic Weapons Project Team (SWPT) and DE&S Principal Security Adviser (PSyA) quality assurance inspection process.

b. To have delivered at least 98% of Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and Ministry of Defence Guarding Service (MGS) agreed UK customer tasks at nuclear sites.

KEY PRIORITY 2

To support the defence main effort in Afghanistan

a. To have achieved 100% of Her Majesty's Government/Ministry of Defence (MOD) approved requirements for Afghanistan national police capacity building.

b. To have 100% of all Defence community police officers (DCPO) positions occupied.

c. To assist the MOD in the detection and recovery of military materiel theft.

KEY PRIORITY 3

To ensure the protection of Defence people, assets, information and estate

a. To have delivered at least 95% of MDP and MGS agreed UK customer tasks at non-nuclear sites including MOD trading funds.

b. To assist the MOD in preventing and detecting fraud and corruption, and any subsequent recovery of losses.

c. To assist the MOD in the investigation of security and data loss.

KEY PRIORITY 4

To provide a response to Defence major incidents

a. To have passed the annual Nuclear Guard Force assessment.

b. To provide a police operational and major incident surge capability that meets the Department's statement of requirement.

c. To achieve the MDP public order standard.

KEY PRIORITY 5

To meet the security requirements of all non-MOD repayment customers

To have delivered 100% of MDP and MGS agreed UK customer tasks at non-MOD payment sites.

KEY PRIORITY 6 -

To maintain MDP and MGS operational and professional standards

To have met and maintained 100% of MDP and MGS accreditation and compliance for:

a. MDPNet accreditation;

b. NPIA Firearms Training Licence;

c. MDP Level 2 Investigation Programme;

d. ACPO accreditation for Police Dog Training Instructors;

e. Information Assurance Maturity Model Level 3;

f. National Crime Recording Standards/Scottish Crime Recording Standards;

g. National Standard for Incident Recording;

h. Diversity through incorporation into the MOD's new Equality Act framework.

External MGS accreditations for:

a. The National Security Industry Gold Standard;

b. Security Industry Authority Standard.

KEY PRIORITY 7

To ensure that the agency transition programme is on track

a. To have achieved 100% of agreed agency transition programme milestones for 2011-12.

b. To have achieved a "Your Say" engagement score that exceeds that of the central top level budget parent unit.

KEY PRIORITY 8

To ensure that the MPDGA delivers on budget

To deliver specified outputs within 1% of authorised control total.

Service Complaints Commissioner

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I am pleased to place in the Library of the House the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s formal response to the Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC)'s third annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The MOD and the services accept the SCC's four new three-year goals, which are challenging but reasonable. The formal response sets out how we propose to address the SCC's 20 new recommendations, including as part of the work that we are currently doing to review the complaints process as a whole.

Since the complaints process was introduced in January 2008, the MOD and the services have made considerable improvements to their management of complaints, drawing on the SCC's valuable input as well as on lessons learned from their own experience of operating the system. While recognising that changes should be given the opportunity to bear fruit, we will maintain and build on the progress made to date to deliver a process that is as fair, effective and efficient as possible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Republic of South Sudan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The Republic of South Sudan became an independent sovereign state on Saturday 9 July. Both it, and the country from which it is seceding, the Republic of Sudan, face many challenges ahead. South Sudan's independence comes as part of a negotiated settlement which brought an end to long years of civil war. This is an African solution to an African problem, and shows how conflict can be resolved through negotiation. We should recall that South Sudan's independence comes as a result of a widely acclaimed referendum in January 2011 where almost 99% of those voting opted for secession.

We welcome the birth of this new nation. The Prime Minister was pleased to announce that the UK was among the first to recognise the Republic of South Sudan on 9 July. I attended the independence ceremony on 9 July along with many heads of state, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and high-level representatives of many countries and international agencies. This was an historic moment for Africa. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with the Republic of South Sudan, and helping it on the path towards stability, good governance and prosperity. I commend the Republic of Sudan for not only accepting the result of the referendum but also being the first to recognise its new neighbour.

However, I am concerned that, since January we have seen violations of the comprehensive peace agreement, and outbreaks of violence in Southern Kordofan and Abyei and elsewhere, and negotiations have failed to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries, despite the efforts of the AU-led mediation and the support of the international community. We continue to urge both countries to display the necessary leadership and spirit of compromise to reach a negotiated settlement to all outstanding issues as soon as possible, so that their citizens may enjoy the peace, stability and prosperity they deserve.

HEALTH

Queen's Ambulance Service Medal

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am pleased to be able to inform the House that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously approved a proposal for the issue of a Queen's Ambulance Service Medal (QAM) to recognise distinguished service by the ambulance service. I am laying before Parliament a Command Paper, Cm 8140, instituting the QAM.

Further information on the criteria for eligibility, along with details on how to nominate individuals for the medal, has been placed in the Library.

Copies of all documents are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. They are also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/urgentandemergency care/DH_113435.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Security Industry Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I am pleased to announce that the annual report 2010-11 and accounts of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will be laid before Parliament and published today.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I have today published an updated policy on the use of the executive override under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the veto") as it relates to information that engages the principle of collective responsibility under section 35(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The policy sets out the Government's view that the veto should only be considered in exceptional circumstances and following the provision of a collective view by the Cabinet—a commitment which is consistent with the undertakings made to this House by the previous Administration during the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill. The policy has been updated to set out who would fulfil the role of "accountable person" for papers of this or previous Administrations.

Copies of the updated policy have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It will also be published online, at www.justice.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

The Olympic Route Network

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): The Olympic Route Network Designation (Amendment) Order 2011 has today been laid before Parliament. The order comes into force on 8 August.

This order, made by the Olympic Delivery Authority following a three-month public consultation, makes a number of changes to the roads originally designated in a June 2009 order as forming the Olympic route network (ORN). The ORN is a set of roads that will be used during the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games to provide safe and reliable transport for athletes, officials, the media and marketing partners (together the "games family") between sporting and non-sporting venues.

The amendments set out in the order comprise both additions to and removals from the designated roads, and add a net 1.3% to the length of the ORN. The changes reflect the work carried out by the ODA and its delivery partners since the initial designation on the plans for implementing the ORN and for the games more widely—particularly on the movement of vehicles carrying members of the games family on the approaches to the competition venues. The changes aim to secure more effectively safe and reliable transport for the games family and reduce the impacts of ORN operations on normal business. They reflect ODA's careful consideration of the 43 responses received to the consultation exercise on proposed changes carried out last year.

Staging the games presents a significant challenge to our transport systems. The ORN remains a key part of our plans to ensure successful transport at the games, for those participating, for spectators, and for those going about their normal business. We remain committed to implementing temporary, tailored and proportionate measures on the ORN that meet the games' needs while minimising the impacts on others. Extensive local engagement by the ODA and Transport for London on the detailed plans for implementing the ORN, taking account of the changes set out in this order, is now under way.

A full report on the ODA's consultation exercise and maps showing the revised ORN will be available on the ODA's website at www.london2012.com/orn. The ODA will also be writing to all respondents to the consultation exercise to inform them that the order has been laid.

Search and Rescue Interim Contract

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 8 February I informed the House that, owing to irregularities in the bidding process, the Government had concluded that it was not appropriate to proceed with the previously planned joint MOD/DFT PFI procurement for future search and rescue capability.

The investigation into the circumstances that led to the cancellation of that procurement is ongoing. Work is also under way to identify the optimum procurement options for the long-term provision of search and rescue helicopter capability for the UK. However, as the existing Maritime and Coastguard Agency search and rescue helicopter contract that provides services at Portland, Lee on Solent, Shetland and the Isle of Lewis is set to expire, I wish to inform the House of my plans to ensure that search and rescue helicopter services from these locations continue uninterrupted until new long-term arrangements are in place.

To ensure the continuity of services from these locations, the Department for Transport will shortly run a competition to procure an interim service for a period of up to five years. This contract will be similar to the arrangements that are currently in place for these bases and are working well. The contract will be open to all interested bidders able to offer a service that fully meets our requirements and ensures the safety of the public and seafarers.

These arrangements will ensure that search and rescue helicopter services are maintained while the range of options in relation to the long-term future provision of such services are being fully considered. The Royal Air Force and Royal Navy will continue to provide coverage from their search and rescue bases as at present, while I consider the options for the long-term provision of search and rescue helicopter capability.

I will inform the House later in the year of the Government's intentions for the longer term. The procurement strategy we adopt for the longer term will seek to ensure that the Ministry of Defence is able to complete its previously announced intention to withdraw its Sea Kings from service in 2016.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Employment Support

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Following the publication on 9 June of Liz Sayce's independent review of specialist disability employment programmes, I will today publish the Government's response, and a consultation on a number of the specific recommendations.

At the time of publication, I welcomed the central theme of the review, that resources should be directed towards disabled people themselves, giving them maximum choice and control over the services they receive.

The Sayce review makes a range of important recommendations about how to turn this aspiration into reality. Liz Sayce has put forward a new direction for specialist disability employment services that would see Access to Work improved and expanded, using funding released from reform of Remploy and residential training. Over time, the Sayce review recommends moving towards a single specialist disability employment programme built on the Access to Work model, that would sit alongside and complement the services provided through the Work programme.

If implemented in full, the Sayce recommendations would have a significant impact on some of the organisations that currently deliver employment services to disabled people, particularly Remploy and residential training colleges. Before taking decisions in these areas, we are seeking views through a public consultation.

Remploy is now in year four of a five-year modernisation plan. In autumn 2010, the Government confirmed that the modernisation budget over the five-year plan remained unchanged, at £555 million with an additional £111 million to meet the additional costs of restructuring. However, in spite of this significant investment, Remploy has not met the majority of its modernisation plan targets, which have proved to be unrealistic. Liz Sayce found a total consensus among disabled people's organisations and charities that the Remploy factories were not the model for the 21st century.

I am therefore attracted by the new model for Remploy set out in the Sayce review. This model would see Remploy leaving public sector ownership, with organisations and employees themselves being given the opportunity to create new businesses or acquire existing businesses, where viable. Where businesses were not viable, and could not continue, employees would receive a comprehensive package of support to find alternative employment. Before taking decisions about the future for Remploy, I am inviting views on these specific recommendations as part of the public consultation.

In relation to residential training, I welcome the recognition in the Sayce review of the unique and very valuable function which the colleges perform in supporting disabled people to achieve qualifications and adapt to disability. Through consultation, I am seeking views about whether we should adopt the Sayce recommendation that this provision should no longer be funded through direct employment programme spending and that residential training colleges should be supported to seek a wider range of funding sources. We would not want to lose the expertise the colleges provide and so we are also seeking views about how any transition could best be managed.

The Sayce review sets out how Access to Work could be improved and expanded. I agree that Access to Work has the potential to help more disabled people and to be delivered more effectively. However, a large increase in customer numbers cannot be achieved without additional funding. Decisions about the future strategy for Access to Work will therefore need to be taken in the context of the responses to the consultation. I have already confirmed that the budget for specialist disability employment programmes is protected over the current spending review period and that any resources released from reforms, after investing in support to help those people and organisations affected through the transition, would be used to improve services and help more disabled people enter and remain in employment.

I have already accepted the recommendation to form a cross-Government ministerial group to oversee a new strategy for disability employment, and the group has now been established.

I will work with disabled people and their organisations to explore the recommendations in the Sayce review. The consultation runs to 17 October, and I encourage responses to the consultation from disabled people, organisations of and for disabled people, employment service providers and all those who have an interest in this important topic.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 12 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Alignment of Prosecutions (DEFRA and CPS)

The Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I have agreed the forthcoming arrangements between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for the conduct of prosecutions.

Currently DEFRA prosecutions are conducted by an in-house prosecutions team that is part of DEFRA's legal team. The forthcoming change is that the conduct of such prosecutions will be assigned by the Attorney-General, with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to the Director of Public Prosecutions under section 3(2)(g) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, and DEFRA legal's five prosecution posts will transfer to the CPS.

The transfer will take place on 1 September 2011.

DEFRA and the CPS have considered carefully the benefits of the changes and agree that the new structure will provide a better strategic fit for prosecutions. The new arrangement will provide greater resilience in the conduct of DEFRA prosecutions, and the team conducting those cases would have improved access to the range of specialist teams in the CPS that are not available in a small in-house team. The team would also have access to the CPS's network of advocates serving courts locally.

The new arrangements provide for strong liaison, partnership and accountability between DEFRA and the CPS.

My right hon. Friend is also pleased to announce that with effect from 1 September 2011 the remainder of DEFRA's legal team will transfer to the Treasury Solicitor's Department. This transfer will provide greater resilience, flexibility and efficiency in the delivery of legal services to DEFRA.

CABINET OFFICE

National School of Government

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The 2010-11 annual report and accounts for the National School of Government was laid before Parliament today. The report has been placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Crown Estate Leases for Offshore Renewables Projects

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): For some years, Crown Estate leases for offshore renewables projects, and agreements for lease, including leases and agreements for lease for the cables transporting the electricity to land, have contained a clause allowing the Crown Estate to determine the lease, in whole or in part, at my request, where this is necessary to enable an oil or gas project to proceed. The clause does not however make any reference to the provision of compensation to the lease holder, and this has become a matter of concern, particularly as regards the prospects of attracting finance for offshore renewables projects. Following discussions by my Department with Renewable UK and Oil and Gas UK, I would therefore like to clarify my approach on the question of my giving consent under the Petroleum Act 1998 for any oil and gas development (that is, for the drilling of any well, for the installation of production facilities, or for the construction of a pipeline), where it appears that the development can proceed only if the oil and gas clause in a renewables lease, or agreement for lease, is invoked.

First, as regards the granting of consent in general, I should note that there have been instances in which proposals for new oil and gas developments have been potentially in conflict with the development intentions of others who have existing rights in the same or in an adjacent area. It is clearly of great importance that oil and gas licensees, in planning their exploration work, and where relevant in working up proposals for producing a new field, should take full account of any potentially conflicting interests. Where it appears that the envisaged oil and gas development may in practice conflict in any degree with activities already permitted, the licensee should consult with the other rights holders and so far as possible seek an agreed way forward acceptable to both sides. Some aspects of these consultation processes are already covered by advice and guidance issued by my Department to petroleum licensees. But I have asked for advice on what further guidance on these matters, and on the procedures by which licensees have to apply for my consent under the Petroleum Act, would be appropriate in today's circumstances. I note in this context that the Petroleum Act, as amended by the Energy Act 2004, provides that in making such a consenting decision, I may have regard, specifically, to activities for or in connection with the generation of electricity, or proposals to carry on such activities.

Secondly, in any case in which an oil and gas licensee seeks consent for a development, and it appears that the development can proceed only if the oil and gas clause in a renewables lease, or agreement for lease, is invoked, I would not be prepared to request that action by the Crown Estate, or to give consent to the proposed development, unless payment of appropriate compensation to the lease holder for the loss of value of his interests had first been assured by negotiation and commercial agreement between the two parties. In such circumstances, I would seek confirmation from the affected leaseholder that agreement had been reached on acceptable terms, before reaching any decision on consent under the Petroleum Act for the oil and gas development.

Exceptionally, where the licensee has exercised all reasonable endeavours to reach such a negotiated agreement, but has been unable to do so, I may be prepared to consider requesting determination of some part of the lease or agreement for lease if the appropriate compensation for loss of value has been assessed by an independent third party and the licensee commits to appropriate arrangements to secure the payment of that compensation. The prospective loss to the lease holder should be valued by the independent third party, on the general principle of equivalence as applied in circumstances of compulsory purchase, which aims to put the claimant in the same position, so far as financial compensation can do so, as if the lease or agreement for lease had not in fact been determined.

For clarity, I reiterate that in the absence of either a commercial agreement between the parties, or of the provision of independently assessed compensation for the renewables leaseholder, I would not be prepared to request the determination in whole or in part of any renewables lease or agreement for lease, or to grant consent to the proposed oil and gas development. The lease holder would remain free to take forward his project as previously envisaged.

My officials will discuss with the interested parties suitable practical arrangements to give effect to this policy, including a process for appointing a suitable person or body to undertake the independent third party valuation where that might be necessary. Suitable guidance will be developed in consultation with leaseholders or prospective leaseholders and the oil and gas industry.

The Crown Estate are considering how this policy can be appropriately reflected in the suite of documentation for individual leases, and how the documentation of existing leases can be updated.

I should add that I do not see these issues as impacting on the granting of oil and gas licences, as these do not convey any consent for development. As at present, licence applicants or prospective applicants will have access to-up-to date information on consented developments, and on areas leased or zoned for other types of development, so that their acceptance of any licence can be based on an up-to-date understanding of potentially conflicting development intentions in the area in question.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) who is responsible for natural environment and fisheries represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 28 June. Richard Lochhead MSP also attended. This was the final Agriculture and Fisheries Council under the Hungarian presidency.

Commissioner Damanaki spoke about the Commission's proposed framework for setting catch levels for 2012 and beyond via the total allowable catch (TAC) and quota regulation (TQR). Against a backdrop of the poor state of many EU fish stocks and the continued issue of overfishing, the Commission announced its aim to ensure that all fish stocks should be fished within the threshold of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2015 and where there was insufficient scientific advice or data the precautionary approach should be adopted and a cut of 25% should be applied to the TAC. Commissioner Damanaki also explained that she intended to split the TQR into two parts this year in order to improve the process: "internal" stocks to be decided at the November Council and "external" (those subject to international negotiations, principally joint EU-Norway stocks) in December.

There was near universal opposition to the idea of the 25% cut for data-poor stocks with 19 of the 22 fishing member states (and Austria) explicitly opposing this. There was concern that this approach would merely increase levels of discarded fish in many cases and that a more targeted approach, using all available data or advice, even incomplete, would be preferable.

There was widespread concern among all fishing member states about aspects of the MSY principle. Nearly all noted that 2015 was the target for all fisheries and that this should be achieved on a gradual basis. The UK, along with Ireland, Spain, Belgium and coastal state in the Baltic expressed concern about how individual species MSY targets could be identified correctly in a multi-species environment.

The UK, Spain, Denmark, France, Ireland, Belgium, Portugal and Austria also expressed concern about the idea of splitting the TQR decision-making across two Councils, creating administrative inefficiency.

In response Commissioner Damanaki emphasised the need to follow scientific advice and in the absence of such advice there had to be a precautionary approach. MSY had to be achieved by 2015 and this could be done on a gradual basis up to then, but could not be delayed. She was open to look at the November-December split to ensure that stocks related to the EU-Norway negotiations were not set in November but she wanted to stick to deciding things as early as possible.

There were three points raised under any other business. The first item saw Ireland express serious concerns about unrestricted mackerel fishing by Iceland and the Faeroe Islands. Setting autonomous quotas significantly higher than scientific advice threatened to damage one of the EU's most valuable, and previously sustainable stocks. Ireland pressed for EU action in the form an immediate ban on all mackerel landings and all imports of mackerel products. The UK supported these concerns and emphasised the possibility of high-level international action to find a political solution. France, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Portugal also supported Ireland. The Commission agreed that action was needed but noted that it could only act within the appropriate legal framework. Commissioner Damanaki said she was talking to Trade Commissioner De Gucht about finding a more effective legal instrument and she hoped to be able to propose something in the autumn.

The second item was a report back from the Netherlands on the high-level conference on common fisheries policy reform that took place in Noordwijk in March 2011. The final fisheries item was a declaration from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania asking for appropriate levels of funding for fisheries as part of the new structural funding arrangements. In particular they emphasised the need for modernisation, research and innovation and small-scale fisheries to be sufficiently funded in the context of CFP reform. There was also a demand for a greater focus on aquaculture. Slovenia, Malta and Slovakia also broadly supported the declaration. Italy, France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal and Ireland drew attention to a declaration that they had recently sent to the Commission which was largely similar, but which also emphasised the need for the economic and social objectives of the CFP to be properly funded. The Commission said that the new funding instrument would prioritise sustainable fishing, research, aquaculture (inland and marine) and would be administratively simpler.

On agriculture, the main item concerned the Commission's response to the E. coli crisis. Commissioner Dalli updated the Council on the public health aspects of the crisis. He also explained the actions taken to get Russia to lift its export ban on EU fruit and vegetables; an agreement had been reached, although some implementation action was still needed, and exports were resuming. Member states welcomed the agreement with Russia, and wanted to see its full and rapid implementation. All agreed on the need to review the operation of EU food safety alert systems and learn lessons from the outbreak. The UK stated that the protection of consumers must be the first priority, and noted that the EU alert systems had worked well in the recent French outbreak, allowing supply chains to be rapidly traced across several member states.

Commissioner Ciolos (Agriculture) explained the measures he had put in place to support affected growers, amounting to a budget of €210 million. Member states needed to provide the necessary verified data rapidly to ensure good audit standards, and decisions on how to apportion the money would be made at the Management Committee on 22 July. He argued that this reinforced the case as part of CAP reform for giving the Commission more scope to intervene in such crises. The Commission also stated it would find an extra €5 million to support promotional campaigns over the coming years. The main grower member states welcomed the Commission's action, and the increased budget, while bemoaning the bureaucratic difficulty of securing the necessary information to support claims. Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Austria wanted more products adding the list of those eligible for compensation or the criteria loosened to allow compensation for having sold at a low price but there were no loud calls for a bigger budget. The UK stressed the importance of restoring consumer confidence to allow producers to get their returns from the market not subsidies. The Commission noted the need to act quickly and simply meant an EU-wide approach, although member states could add national mechanisms (state aids) on top if they so wished. He stressed that proper audit was essential to ensure appropriate financial management.

There were three agricultural items under any other business. The first related to the food for deprived persons programme. Italy called for rapid action to ensure the food for deprived persons programme could continue at its planned level of funding (€500 million a year) following the recent European Court of Justice ruling that would heavily restrict it. Belgium, Slovenia, Cyprus, France, Hungary and Poland agreed. The Commission stated that the European Court of Justice ruling would limit funds to what was available from intervention sales, about €130 million for 2012 and nothing in 2013, but there was a Commission proposal on the table to resolve the difficulties and allow the full spending to proceed, should the Council agree it. Germany, the Netherlands and UK all said they did not agree—this was a social programme, for national Governments, not something for the CAP. Poland indicated they would bring the issue to the Council for decision under their presidency.

The two final items under any other business were reports back from the French on the recent G20 meeting of agriculture ministers, and from Hungary two conferences they had held on the future of livestock sector and on organic farming. There was no further discussion.

HEALTH

Health Act 2006 (Post-legislative Assessment)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today laid before Parliament "Post-Legislative Assessment of the Health Act 2006", Cm 8115, the Government's memorandum to the Health Select Committee, which provides a preliminary assessment of the Health Act 2006. The main purposes of the Act are to ensure protection from the health dangers of second-hand tobacco smoke; to provide a statutory footing to reduce levels of health care associated infection; and to provide for safer management of controlled drugs, and improvements to pharmacy and ophthalmic services, as well changes to the administration of the NHS.

Copies of the memorandum are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Threat Level

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Yesterday, 11 July, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) changed the UK threat level from international terrorism from severe to substantial. This means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

The change in the threat level to substantial does not mean the overall threat has gone away, there remains a real and serious threat against the United Kingdom and I would ask the public to remain vigilant.

The decision to change the threat level is taken by JTAC independently of Ministers and is based on the very latest intelligence, considering factors such as capability, intent and time scale. "Substantial" continues to indicate a high-level of threat; and that an attack might well occur without further warning. The threat level is kept under constant review.

Contest (UK Strategy for Countering Terrorism)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I have today published a revised version of Contest: The United Kingdom's strategy for countering terrorism. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

International counter-terrorism work has made very significant progress over the past 10 years. Al-Qaeda is weaker than at any time since 9/11. It has not conducted a successful attack here since 2005. It has played no role in recent political change in north Africa and the middle east. Its ideology has been widely discredited and it has failed in all its objectives. Continued international pressure can further reduce its capability, and the UK must work with other countries to seize those opportunities in the coming months and years.

But al-Qaeda continues to be a significant threat and other terrorist groups, some affiliated to al-Qaeda—notably in Yemen and Somalia—have emerged over the past two years to be a substantial threat in their own right. The threat from Northern Ireland related terrorism has also increased. The scale of the threat and of activity to contain it is reflected in the number of arrests and convictions here for terrorist related offences. These figures remain high. The Government will continue to give the highest importance to their counter-terrorism work.

The aim of our counter-terrorist strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and UK interests so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

The scope of the strategy has been broadened to cover all forms of terrorism and has been changed to reflect the Government's security and counter-terrorism policies.

Under our "Pursue" work, the purpose of which is to stop terrorist attacks, we have already reviewed the most controversial counter-terrorism and security powers which have been in place here and made significant changes to them. They are now more effective and more proportionate. We will work hard to maintain intelligence coverage of terrorist-related activity here and give the intelligence and security services and the police the capabilities they need. We will continue to try to prosecute or deport more of those who have been engaged in terrorist-related activity; and we will support foreign Governments in building their capacity to deal with terrorism overseas.

We have revised work on "Prevent"—which aims to stop people being drawn into terrorist activity—and have already published a comprehensive assessment or work to date and a statement of our future strategy. Like Contest as a whole "Prevent" has increased in scope to deal with all forms of terrorism and also to more clearly tackle extremism which is conducive to terrorist activity and can draw people towards it. We will make a clearer distinction between our "Prevent" work and our programmes to support integration. Our focus will be on challenging ideology, supporting vulnerable people, and working with key sectors where radicalisation may occur.

In our "Protect" work, we will continue to respond to recent threats to aviation security. We will further strengthen our borders—notably through the formation of the National Crime Agency—and the protection of our critical infrastructure. For "Prepare"—our contingency planning—we have learnt lessons from previous terrorist attacks. We will continue to build our capabilities to respond to a Mumbai style attack; to address the highest impact terrorist risks, including an attack which might make use of unconventional weapons; and to resolve issues of interoperability between the emergency services.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be the biggest sporting event in our history. Terrorism poses the greatest security threat to the games. Ensuring the security of the Olympics will be an absolute priority over the coming year.

The threat endures but al-Qaeda is significantly weaker than it has been for 10 years. There are opportunities for us and our allies to seize the opportunities we have now to further enhance our security and reduce the threats we face. This strategy is intended to enable us to do so.

JUSTICE

Public Bodies Reform

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Today I have laid before Parliament a public consultation document; "Consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill—Reforming the public bodies of the Ministry of Justice".

The consultation details our reform proposals in relation to those Ministry of Justice bodies included in the Public Bodies Bill, which is currently before this House. While clause 10 of the Bill requires consultation of certain specified groups, I have decided that this should be a public consultation to ensure details of my Department's proposals are available to as many interested parties as possible.

Reducing the number and costs of public bodies is a key Government commitment and the proposals in this consultation build on previous announcements relating to public bodies reform. All Ministry of Justice public bodies have been reviewed over the last year. We have considered whether particular bodies and their associated functions are still needed and assessed our public bodies against agreed criteria for reform. These criteria were intended to increase Government accountability; eliminate duplication of activity and discontinue activities that no longer need to take place.

I am confident that the proposed reforms set out in the consultation document will address these aims and enable the Ministry of Justice to make a significant contribution to the Government's reform of public bodies.

I will carefully consider the consultation responses before bringing forward any order in relation to any of the Ministry of Justice bodies in the Bill.

Immigration Advisory Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): It is with regret that the trustees of the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) decided that the organisation had to enter into administration on Friday 8 July 2011.

This is clearly a sad situation for all involved. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has worked closely with IAS over the last few years and IAS has received substantial support to help them manage their cash flow and run its business within the LSC's contracted payment system. When LSC took over responsibility in 2004 for funding IAS, the LSC agreed to more favourable transitional arrangements with IAS than were agreed with other not-for-profit organisations.

However, a recent contract compliance audit by the Legal Services Commission, has provisionally identified that a material proportion (amounting to several millions of pounds) of the £15 million paid annually to IAS is over or misclaimed work. This is often where the work carried out does not have appropriate documentation to prove its validity, most commonly where there is a lack of evidence confirming clients' eligibility. As well as this, work was conducted which was not within the scope of public funding. The LSC, as a responsible public body, is rightly seeking to recoup this money. It is of course crucial that the Government achieve value for public money and the LSC must be able to demonstrate to the Comptroller and Auditor General that it is in control of the funds it administers and takes appropriate action where the terms of its contracts are not complied with.

There have been extensive efforts on the parts of both IAS and the LSC to negotiate a solution to the current financial position, but the scale of the debt, coupled with projected income levels, has led the trustees to conclude that placing the organisation in administration is a necessary step. The current position reflects the company's past financial management and claims irregularities and is not a direct consequence of the proposed legal aid reforms, not least because these reforms have yet to be implemented.

The primary concern for the Government and the LSC is now to ensure clients of IAS continue to get the help they need. The LSC expects that the administration of IAS will allow a managed close down process of IAS's activities and an orderly transfer of clients to new providers. Provisional arrangements have been made to ensure that any emergency cases are dealt with speedily, meanwhile the LSC is identifying alternative advice provision in the areas affected and arrangements for case transfer will follow as soon as possible.

There is a significant long-term interest in this work from other providers, both not for profit organisations and private solicitor firms. The LSC ran a tender round for new immigration and asylum contracts in October last year and there was an increase in the number of offices that applied to do the work and bids for more than double the amount of cases that were available. All immigration and asylum providers are expected to meet the same high-quality standards which include compulsory accreditation schemes for all advisers and supervisors, and as such I believe the interests of the clients being transferred will be protected.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I have today published the Government's response to "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" (Cm 7990).

We need to challenge and support families to think about their responsibilities for their children when adult relationships break down, to ensure the welfare of their children comes first. It is unacceptable that more than 50% of children living in separated families have no effective child maintenance arrangement in place. I believe we need to move away from a system where the CSA is seen as the only option for the majority, with many people trapped inside an adversarial statutory system because they have been unable to access sufficient support to help them make alternative arrangements.

In our response, we reaffirm our commitment to establishing a better network of support for parents so they can deal with maintenance issues in the broader context of the emotional and practical issues they face at separation, and to make it easier for them to make family-based arrangements which are in the best interests of their children. We will continue working with experts in the voluntary and community sector, as well as with the Department for Education and Ministry of Justice, to translate this vision into reality.

Sir David Henshaw's 2006 report into child maintenance recommended charging for use of the statutory service as an essential part of changing the behaviour of parents and encouraging them to work collaboratively to take responsibility for the welfare of their children. We remain committed to implementing the previous Government's legislation which took forward Henshaw's recommendation and provided for charging. Within this we will continue to work with interested and expert groups to ensure that particularly vulnerable parents are supported appropriately, and we remain committed to delivering an improved statutory scheme that is accessible. We will consult on specific rates in due course, prior to regulations being laid in Parliament.

As part of our commitment to ensuring that the needs of vulnerable people are protected, victims of domestic violence will be fast-tracked to the statutory service with no application fee. Families on out of work benefits will retain 100% of their welfare benefits entitlement and a heavily discounted application fee to what remains a heavily state subsidised statutory maintenance scheme.

Again, we will consult further on specific details in due course.

We are determined to have more children benefiting from effective financial support and more collaborative parenting post separation. I believe that the approach we are setting out today will bring about real change that will make a real difference to children's lives.

Copies of the consultation response are available in the Vote Office, and will be available shortly at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/strengthening-families.shtml

Up-rating Private Occupational Pensions (Move to CPI)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Today, the Government will publish an updated impact assessment for the move to using the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) as the basis for the statutory minimum up-rating of occupational pensions.

This edition of the impact assessment takes account of research into private pension schemes rules and the likely reaction of employers to the decision to use the CPI published on 16 June 2011, and the latest Office of Budget Responsibility estimates of RPI and CPI inflation rates. It also includes the impact of proposed amendments to the Pensions Bill, which were tabled on the 7 July.

A copy of the updated impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and will be available on the Department's website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/cpi-private-pens-consultation.shtml

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 13 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station

The Solicitor-General (Mr Edward Garnier): On 18 April 2011, Keir Starmer QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, announced that following a review by Clare Montgomery QC, the safety of the convictions of the individuals who protested at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, should be considered by the Court of Appeal as soon as possible.

During that review, the CPS had been conducting an internal investigation into its own handling of the case. However, in light of growing concerns about the non-disclosure of material relating to the activities of an undercover police officer in this case and, following discussion with the Attorney-General and myself, the DPP said last month that he would establish an independent inquiry conducted by a senior legal figure. The DPP has now confirmed that retired Court of Appeal judge. Sir Christopher Rose will conduct this inquiry.

The terms of reference have been agreed with Sir Christopher and are as follows:

The independent inquiry will examine and make findings in respect of the following matters:

> a. Whether the CPS approach to charging in this case was right, bearing in mind the known existence of an undercover police officer in the operation.
>
> b. Whether the CPS and prosecution counsel complied with their disclosure duties properly in relation to the known existence of an undercover police officer in this case.
>
> c. Whether the CPS arrangements in place for handling the known existence of an undercover police officer, including arrangements between the police and the CPS, the CPS and counsel and the local prosecuting team and the national co-ordinator, were adequate and properly followed in this case.
>
> d. Whether the CPS followed all relevant guidance and policy in relation to the known existence of an undercover police officer in this case.

The independent inquiry will also make such recommendations it feels appropriate in light of the examination and findings set out above, including, if appropriate, recommendations about CPS policy and/or guidance and CPS arrangements for handling cases involving undercover police officers.

The independent inquiry has been established by, and will report its findings and recommendations to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Sir Christopher will have full access to all the available evidence and will work in tandem with the IPCC inquiry into this matter. Both organisations are committed to sharing all relevant information and arrangements are being made to ensure there is meaningful liaison between the two inquiries. Inevitably this work will take time but will be completed as soon as is practicable. The Director of Public Prosecutions intends to make public the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Troop Levels

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan is due to take place in October 2011. The UK's current framework Brigade in Helmand, 3 Commando Brigade, will be replaced by 20th Armoured Brigade. The forces deploying include:

20th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (200)

Elements of 19th Light Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (209)

Headquarters 101 Logistic Brigade

Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron including members of the Maritime Reserve

Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron

857 Naval Air Squadron

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish)

Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 26th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 40th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 25 Engineer Regiment

35 Engineer Regiment

Elements of 38 Engineer Regiment

Elements of 71 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers)

Elements of 12 (Air Support) Engineer Group

Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group

Elements of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment

Elements of 10th Signal Regiment

Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)

Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)

Elements of 22nd Signal Regiment

3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (The Black Watch)

1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)

1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters)

2nd Battalion The Rifles

5th Battalion The Rifles

Elements of 1 Regiment Army Air Corps

Elements of 3 Regiment Army Air Corps

Elements of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps

Elements of 9 Regiment Army Air Corps

Elements of Joint Helicopter Support Squadron

Elements of Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion

1 Logistic Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 6 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 7 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 8 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 9 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 23 Pioneer Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

1 Medical Regiment

Elements of 201 Field Hospital (Volunteers)
Elements of 208 Field Hospital (Volunteers)
3 Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 19 Light Brigade Combat Service Support Battalion
Elements of 101 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 104 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
110 Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of 173 Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of Special Investigation Branch United Kingdom
Elements of 1 Military Working Dogs Regiment
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of 15 Psychological Operations Group
Elements of 88 Postal and Courier Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Force Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 156 Transport Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 159 Supply Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 162 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 166 Supply Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
602 Tactical Air Control Party
603 Tactical Air Control Party
606 Tactical Air Control Party
618 Tactical Air Control Party
Number 3 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Elements of Number 2 Royal Air Force Police Wing
Elements of Number 3 Royal Air Force Police Wing
2 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 101 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 39 Squadron Royal Air Force
31 Squadron, Royal Air Force
IX(B) Squadron, Royal Air Force
2 (Army Co-Operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5 (Army Co-Operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 28 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of the Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Mobility Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 (Mechanical Transport) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 3 Mobile Catering Squadron
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of 1 (Expeditionary Logistics) Squadron
Elements of 93 (Expeditionary Armaments) Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Wing
Elements of 5131(BD) Sqn

Volunteer and ex-regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package, and we expect to issue around 530 call-out notices. On completion of their mobilisation procedures the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for around six months. As part of this commitment we expect up to 24 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

The UK's conventional force level will remain at 9,500 for the duration of the deployment.

I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to serve under 20th Armoured Brigade's planned replacement formation, 12 Mechanized Brigade, nearer the time of their deployment.

Operational Allowances

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): Our forces currently on operations in Libya are performing brilliantly and at considerable risk to themselves. We regularly review the payment of the operational allowance (OA) that recognises the risk and hardships faced by our forces on operations.

We have recently completed such a review, and have decided it is only appropriate to extend the OA to all those serving this country on operations in Libya.

This will result in the payment of OA to anyone operating within the land mass, airspace and territorial waters of Libya, including all aircrew operating over the Libyan land mass and to ships and submarines within 12 nm of the coast. Payment is based on the number of days within the specified areas, and will be backdated until 18 March 2011 with funding coming from the reserve.

In accordance with the agreed policy, those engaged in operations for which they are in receipt of OA on the day that individuals are notified—1 September 2011 for the Army and the RAF, 30 September 2011 for the Royal Navy —will be excluded from the redundancy programme. Similarly, those on a dedicated operational work-up package, of up to six months, or post-operational tour leave on the day of notifications will also be excluded.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Administration Provisions

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): I am announcing today the publication of draft legislation on three electoral administration provisions for pre-legislative scrutiny.

The draft legislation is intended to form part of a larger package of measures which will also include draft legislation on individual electoral registration (IER) which has been published separately for pre-legislative scrutiny.

The draft legislation addresses particular issues that have been raised by MPs and peers, and by electoral stakeholders, and proposes practical and sensible changes that will help to deliver more effective electoral administration.

The draft legislation includes provisions which extend the timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 days and similarly extends the timetable for UK parliamentary by-elections. The existing timetable for UK parliamentary elections and by-elections is considerably shorter than the electoral timetable for all other UK polls. The very limited time available for the postal vote process compromises effective participation in elections by certain types of voter, particularly overseas and service voters. Moreover, the existing timetable puts considerable pressure on administrative processes by compressing a large number of tasks into a short period, which represents significant risks to the effective conduct of elections.

Extending the timetable for UK parliamentary elections and by-elections will bring benefits for voters and administrators, as well as adding to the robustness and integrity of the electoral process. The Government propose that, within this extended timetable:

the deadline for parties to nominate candidates should continue to be six days after the start of the timetable, so parties will have the same time as now to put forward candidates to stand for election. In practice this will now be 19, rather than 11, days before the date of poll, which will allow administrators to begin printing ballot papers further in advance of polling day;

provision should be made for updated versions of the electoral register to be created at an earlier point in the timetable to allow postal votes to be distributed to new registration applicants earlier than is currently possible.

We also propose to address an oversight in existing legislation passed during the previous Government's time in office which allows a candidate standing for a single party in a UK parliamentary election to use an emblem on their ballot paper, but does not allow jointly nominated candidates to do so. This issue has primarily affected candidates standing on behalf of the Labour party and the Co-operative party. The proposal will ensure that electoral law is consistent on this issue.

The draft legislation also makes changes to the existing system for reviews of polling districts and places in Great Britain for UK parliamentary elections to bring them in line with the five-year cycle for UK parliamentary boundary reviews implemented by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 and the proposed cycle of parliamentary terms under the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill.

I am today sending the draft legislation to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny.

A Command Paper setting out the draft legislation and associated explanatory notes will be laid before the House.

EDUCATION

Munro Review of Child Protection

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): On 10 June 2010, I informed the house that the Government was commissioning the Munro review of child protection. This was the very first review established in the Department for Education, underlining the enormous priority this Government place on getting child protection right.

From the start, we wanted the Munro review of child protection to be different. That is why, unlike its predecessors, it was not commissioned as an immediate response to a specific crisis. That is why Professor Munro's final report—published in May—recommended that regulation and prescription are reduced rather than increased. And, most importantly of all, that is why it focused on the child, rather than the system.

I am extremely grateful to Professor Munro for undertaking a wide-ranging and in-depth review. I am also grateful to all the organisations in the sector, the child protection work force and the wider public, including children and young people themselves, who contributed to the review. Their experience, insights and expertise have helped make her final report so well informed, and so widely welcomed.

Just as Professor Munro conducted her review openly and collaboratively, the Government have worked with the sector to develop the Government's response. An implementation working group, drawing on expertise from local authority children's services, the social work profession, the police and, in particular, education and the health service, advised on the Government's response to Professor Munro's recommendations.

The Government commend Professor Munro's thorough analysis of the issues and accepts her fundamental argument that the child protection system has lost its focus on the thing that matters most: the views and experience of children themselves. We believe we need to move towards a child protection system with less central prescription and interference, where we place greater trust and responsibility in skilled professionals at the front line.

The Government's response is not a one-off set of recommended solutions to be imposed from the centre. Rather it is the start of a shift in mindset and relationship between central Government, local agencies and front-line professionals, working in partnership. Change will evolve and best practice will develop based on experience, innovation and evidence. Our aim will be to create the conditions for sustained, long-term reform which enables and inspires professionals to do their best for vulnerable children and their families.

Professor Munro will continue to advise the Government and will undertake an interim assessment of progress in spring 2012. I have placed copies of the Government's response in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Pesticide Residues Committee

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): On 14 October 2010, the Government announced the outcome of their review of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). This reported that the majority of DEFRA's scientific and technical advisory bodies were to be abolished and reconstituted as expert Scientific Committees to provide advice on specific areas. As part of implementing these reforms, the Pesticide Residues Committee (PRC), which was a non-statutory advisory NDPB, has been abolished and replaced by an expert Scientific Committee from 1 July 2011. The new Committee will be called the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) to more accurately reflect its remit.

The PRiF Committee will continue to support DEFRA, the devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency on the scope and operation of surveillance for residues of pesticides in food and the significance to consumers of any residues detected.

The new Committee's membership and terms of reference can be found on the PRiF website: http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/prc_home.asp.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Scientific Procedures on Living Animals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2010" (HC 1263), was laid before the House today. Copies will be available in the Vote office.

This annual statistical report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to inform Parliament about the licensed use of animals for experimental or other scientific purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU-level. Supplementary information with additional tables is also available on the Home Office website.

The 2010 statistical report shows that the number of licensed procedures started in 2010 increased slightly over 2009 to just over 3.7 million scientific procedures and constituted a rise of 105,000 (3%). This rise follows a slight fall in the 2009 statistical report. A number of factors, such as investment in research and development and strategic funding priorities, determine the overall level of scientific procedures.

The Home Office, as regulatory authority under the 1986 Act, ensures that its provisions are rigorously applied and only authorises work that is scientifically justified and minimises the numbers of animals used and the animal suffering that may be caused.

The statistical report and supplementary information can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/.

I am pleased to inform the House that I have also today placed in the Library the annual report of the Home Office "Animals Scientific Procedures Division and Inspectorate" for the year 2010.

Publication of the report honours a commitment given in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

As in previous years, the report explains what Home Office inspectors do and how they do it and the inspectorate's role in assessing and advising on applications for personal and project licences and certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and reporting non-compliance.

The report also contains information on the work of the ASPD policy and licensing teams; it explains how, in partnership with ASPI, ASPD have continued to work towards delivering our better regulation programme and new IT system; includes a section setting out the reporting of cases of non-compliance and infringements of ASPA and the outcomes of these cases (see annex D), and records progress with the adoption of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, which came into force on 9 November 2010.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I am pleased to announce that the annual report 2010-11 and accounts of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will be laid before Parliament and published today.

Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Family Migration

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Today, I am publishing a consultation on family migration. Immigration has enriched our culture and strengthened our economy, but uncontrolled immigration places pressure on our public services and on community cohesion. The Government have already introduced a limit on non-European economic area economic migrants entering the UK; have reshaped tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system to increase selectivity and skills requirements; have started implementing changes to tier 4, the student visa system; and are currently consulting on breaking the link between economic migration and settlement, and on other temporary work routes. These policies will reduce net migration, but we need to take action across all routes to ensure this returns to sustainable levels and we bring a sense of fairness back to our immigration system.

This consultation on family migration is the next in our programme of immigration reforms. In the year to September 2010, family migration accounted for around 17% of all non-EU immigration to the UK.

The proposals included in the family consultation are aimed at tackling abuse, promoting integration and reducing burdens on the taxpayer. A contribution to reduced net migration would be welcome but is not the primary goal. The focus is on delivering better family migration: better for migrants, for communities and for the UK as a whole.

The consultation concentrates on the family route: those non-EEA nationals entering, remaining in or settling in the UK on the basis of a relationship with a British citizen or person settled in the UK. This includes fiancé(e)s, proposed civil partners, spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same-sex partners, dependent children and adult and elderly dependent relatives. In 2010, 48,900 visas were granted to people on the family route, of which 40,500 were issued to people on the basis of marriage or civil or other partnership, and 8,400 were issued to dependants.

We set out firm proposals for reform of the family route. The key elements are: a minimum income threshold for sponsors to provide appropriate maintenance, on which we have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to advise; in line with other routes, extending the probationary period from two years to five years before a spouse or partner can apply for settlement (and before which non-contributory benefits may not be claimed. Access to the labour market, to the NHS and to schooling will be unaffected by this change); and a requirement to understand everyday English before settlement is granted. We propose that all those seeking settlement or citizenship should demonstrate an appropriate level of English, and we will consider whether changes to the current testing regime could further assist integration.

We also propose to help UK Border Agency caseworkers consider spouse and partner applications by defining what we mean under the rules by a genuine and continuing relationship, marriage or partnership; to end immediate settlement, and immediate access to benefits, on entry for spouses and partners who have been married or in a relationship for at least four years before coming to the UK, and for adult dependent relatives, including those aged 65 or over, and to require both groups to complete a five-year probationary period; and to look at arrangements for dependent relatives aged 65 or over to settle in the UK, reflecting health and social care costs to the taxpayer.

The consultation also invites discussion on some broader propositions, particularly in relation to tackling sham marriages and forced marriages. On sham marriages these build on existing joint work between the UK Border Agency and the General Register Offices across the UK, local registration services and the Anglican Church. They also explore the case for legislative change in England and Wales, including making "sham" an impediment to marriage and allowing a marriage to be delayed while a suspected sham is investigated.

It is important that we look at family migration in the round and so the consultation also deals with other family migration issues.

In 2010, 45,200 dependants under the points-based system were granted a visa with a route to settlement in the UK. The consultation proposes moving to a five-year probationary period and everyday English for settlement for the spouses and civil and other partners of points-based system migrants, in line with other groups.

Many British citizens and persons settled in the UK have family members living outside the UK. This results in a high volume of visa applications from people wishing to visit family here. In 2010, 350,300 family visit visas were issued, with around 73% granted on initial decision by the visa officer. In 2010-11, 95% of family visit visa applications were decided by the UK Border Agency within 15 working days.

We have reviewed the arrangements for the operation of the family visit visa. We are concerned that taxpayer funding of around £40 million per year is being spent on appeals where appellants are commonly misusing the appeals system, by submitting information on appeal which should have been put forward as part of the original application, or where a second application (costing another £76) is the most appropriate route for securing a visa. We are also concerned that this is a disproportionate use of taxpayer funding (for an appeal process which can take up 34 weeks to be concluded) for the benefit sought: a short-term visit to the UK. Greater priority should be given to appeal cases that have far-reaching impacts for the individuals concerned and for the public at large, for example asylum claims, settlement applications and the deportation of foreign criminals.

In the light of this, we are reviewing the full right of appeal for family visit visas and we invite views on whether there are circumstances in which an appeal right should be retained, beyond the race discrimination and human rights grounds which, in line with other categories of temporary entry clearance, will continue to be available.

Finally, the consultation invites discussion on the balance to be struck on article 8 of the European convention on human rights (the right to respect for private and family life) between individual rights and the public interest in public protection and maintaining immigration controls. Article 8 is not an absolute right and our proposals aim to set out requirements that must be satisfied in family migration cases which are consistent with our ECHR obligations. We also want to be clear about the circumstances in which the public interest will outweigh an individual's article 8 right.

Details of the public consultation can be found on the Home Office website and a copy will also be placed in the Library of the House.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 6 October 2011, and we will announce our firm plans in due course, with a view to implementing changes during 2012.

Identity and Passport Service

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Identity and Passport Service annual report and accounts 2010-11 have been laid before the House today.

Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has today published its annual report and accounts for 2010-11. I have laid a copy before the House and made arrangements to place copies in the Vote Office.

UK Border Agency

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The UK Border Agency annual report and accounts 2010-11 has been laid before the House today.

Copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Squatters

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): The Government have become increasingly concerned about the distress and misery that squatters can cause. Law-abiding property owners or occupiers who work hard for a living can spend thousands of pounds evicting squatters from their properties, repairing damage and clearing up the debris they have left behind.

I have met with hon. Members and corresponded with members of the public who have expressed concern about the appalling impact squatting has had on their properties or local neighbourhoods.

The Government do not accept the claim that is sometimes made that squatting is a reasonable recourse of the homeless resulting from social deprivation. There are options open to those who are genuinely destitute and who need shelter which do not involve occupying somebody else's property without authority. No matter how compelling or difficult the squatter's own circumstances are claimed to be, it is wrong that legitimate occupants should be deprived of the use of their property.

There should be no doubt about the seriousness with which the Government treat this problem or our determination to tackle it. The Housing Minister and I have already published new guidance on the direct.gov website for property owners on evicting squatters under existing legislation.

The consultation paper we are publishing today invites views on whether more should be done to strengthen the criminal law or its enforcement. We could do this, for example, by introducing a new offence of squatting; by strengthening existing offences that currently apply to squatters; or by working with the enforcement authorities to identify and overcome barriers to enforcement of existing offences that may be committed by squatters.

The Government acknowledge that some of the options they are proposing may have an impact on the enforcement authorities, local authorities, homelessness charities and other organisations. Any option we decide to pursue as a result of this consultation will need to be workable and affordable, taking account of the current economic climate and reduction in Government expenditure.

Of course, we must also tackle problems affecting the wider housing market and bring more empty homes back into productive use. The Government intend to publish an empty homes strategy over the summer and a wider housing strategy in the autumn, setting out the overall approach to housing policy, including how we are supporting an increase in the supply and quality of new private and social housing, helping those seeking a home of their own, whether to rent or buy. The Government have already made available £4.5 billion to help deliver new affordable housing through the affordable homes programme and as part of that, £100 million to bring empty homes back into use.

I am placing copies of the consultation paper in the Libraries of both Houses, but it can also be viewed on the Ministry of Justice website: www.justice.gov.uk.

Prison and Probation Services (England and Wales)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): In the response to the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", I set out a vision for a transformed justice system that will focus on public protection and cutting crime. An important part of delivering the changes I am committed to is ensuring that the services we provide are focused on delivering the best possible outcomes and the greatest value for money.

Competition between providers of our services can help us to meet these challenges as the previous Government recognised when they made contestability a feature of offender services when setting up the National Offender Management Service in 2004. The "Competition Strategy for Offender Services", which I have published today, sets out how we will change the way we use competition to meet these aims. My approach is based on ensuring an effective balance between making services more efficient while reforming them so that they provide better outcomes for the public. In doing so, we will draw on a wide range of expertise from the private and voluntary sector, which will work in partnership with a strong public sector.

For offender services, I intend to employ the principle that competition will apply at some stage to all those services not currently bound to public sector delivery by statute. This will mean the benefits of competition can be felt much more widely, contrasting with the previous approach of only using competition when procuring new services or as a way of managing poor performance.

Underpinning this approach will be our commitment to apply more widely the principles of payment by results to services which reduce reoffending. By paying some or all of a contract value on the basis of the reduced reoffending levels achieved, we can focus service providers' efforts on what works. This will ensure that money spent on rehabilitation is spent effectively. We intend to run a number of pilot exercises and competition will be a key mechanism in deciding which models we adopt.

In practice, this will mean taking a different approach for both custodial and non-custodial services. The use of competition in custodial services is now well established, as most recently demonstrated by the successful outcome of the competition for four prisons which I announced in March this year.

To ensure that we build on this strong record I am announcing today my intention to launch competitions for the management of a further nine prisons in the autumn. These are Lindholme, Moorland, Hatfield and The Wolds in Yorkshire, Acklington and Castington in Northumberland, Durham, Onley in Northamptonshire and Coldingley in Surrey. The Wolds is a prison run by G4S that has come to the end of its current contract; the other eight prisons are public sector establishments being competed for the first time. The public sector will have the opportunity to compete in all of these prison competitions.

These prisons have been selected by the National Offender Management Service to balance our need to increase efficiency and to make real the policy intent of the Green Paper.

Looking to the future, there is a need to consider the future shape of probation services in England and Wales to improve justice outcomes and to make the justice system more efficient and effective. I have asked my officials to explore the possible options for service improvements and different models of delivering offender services within the community. I will set out my preferred approach in the autumn. Alongside this, and supporting it, I will set out in detail my competition strategy for non-custodial services, which will also encompass the recently launched competition for community payback services, the competition for electronic monitoring contracts I am announcing today, and payment-by-results pilots in the community.

A further important element of our drive for greater efficiency is to ensure we have a modern, fit-for-purpose prison estate which can deliver high-quality, cost-effective and secure regimes. With the prison population not growing at the rate predicted by the last Government, we have an opportunity to close some of our more inefficient places.

I am therefore announcing the closure of HMPs Latchmere House and Brockhill. This will see a reduction of 377 prison spaces. This is part of an overall programme which includes a further 2,500 new prison places becoming available over the next 12 months. This will ensure that our operational capacity continues to handle the projected prison population in a way which meets the need both for greater efficiency and ability to support a strengthened focus on protection of the public and rehabilitation.

The closure of these places will provide estimated cost savings of £4.9 million this year and an on-going annual saving of £11.4 million. We also anticipate capital receipts from sale of the land at Latchmere House, which is in a prime location. We will transfer resettlement provision from that establishment to HMP Brixton to maintain our focus on reducing reoffending. We expect to be able to absorb staff displaced by this process elsewhere in the system and to avoid the use of compulsory redundancies.

The public have a right to expect continuing improvement in the quality and efficiency of public services, without compromising public safety. The competition strategy and adjustments to the prison estate I have outlined today will help ensure that this is the case.

Copies of the "Offender Services Competition Strategy" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also available online, at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/oscs.htm.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its valuable work and its latest annual report, Cm. 8114. Following consultation with the committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies, I have today laid the report before the House.

The Government's response to this report will be laid before the House after the summer recess.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): Crossrail will support economic growth for London and the UK. As part of the comprehensive spending review in October 2010, the coalition Government confirmed their commitment to the full Crossrail scheme. A re-phased programme of delivery means that Crossrail services will commence from 2018. We expect Crossrail to cost no more than £14.5 billion. Forecasts continue to suggest that Crossrail will be delivered within its existing funding.

Crossrail has made significant progress since the last annual update to Parliament. Crossrail Ltd has now let all of its key tunnelling contracts, and enabling works are continuing at a number of sites across central London. Construction is well advanced at Canary Wharf Crossrail station, and tunnel boring machines are expected to be launched in spring 2012. In April 2011, Crossrail passed through the final project review point, at which point the Department and TfL delegated full contractual authority to Crossrail Ltd to deliver the scheme. The new chief executive of Crossrail Ltd, Andrew Wolstenholme, was appointed in May 2011.

During the passage of the Crossrail Act through Parliament, a commitment was given that a statement would be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances.

In line with this commitment, this statement comes within 12 months of my last one which was published on 15 July 2010. The relevant information is as follows:

Total funding amounts provided to Crossrail Ltd by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2011) (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases)	£1,484.605,000
Expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Ltd in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period (30 May 2010 to 29 May 2011) (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases)	£723,475,000
Total expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Ltd in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2011) (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases)	£1,884,254,000
The amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or Crossrail Ltd in the period covered by the statement	Nil

The numbers above are drawn from Crossrail Ltd's books of account and have been prepared on a consistent basis with the update provided last year. The figure for expenditure incurred includes moneys already paid out in relevant periods, including committed land and property expenditure where this has not yet been paid. It does not include future expenditure on construction contracts that have been awarded.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 14 July 2011

TREASURY

Asset Protection Agency

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The annual report and accounts 2010-11 of the Asset Protection Agency (APA) has been presented to Parliament today.

The report contains commentary on key developments in relation to the APA and the asset protection scheme (APS) over the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

I am pleased to note the statements in the report that the likelihood of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) being able to make a claim under the APS has further receded and that the British taxpayer is therefore expected to make an overall profit of £5 billion from the APS. Moreover, the amount of covered assets has further reduced from £234 billion at scheme inception to £182 billion at 31 March 2011.

The APA has today also published a legal agreement relating to the APS. This aligns the operation of the scheme more closely with RBS's regular "business as usual" finance and risk management process. This agreement is in addition to the supplemental agreements on the implied write-down trigger for long-dated assets, revised arrangements for the assessment of APS performance-related remuneration for relevant RBS staff and a move from annual to quarterly fees, which were outlined in the written ministerial statement laid on 15 February 2011. It is expected that this agreement will increase operational efficiency for RBS and the APA leading to reduced costs for both and, by extension, the taxpayer.

Tax Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These, and other consultations, are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has today published the following documents:

> *Working with tax agents: dishonest conduct*—a discussion document which seeks views on draft legislation which reflects comments received during earlier consultation. As part of a wider modernisation of HMRC's powers, deterrents and safeguards this document looks at how HMRC interacts with tax agents to deal with dishonest conduct other than by way of a criminal investigation.

HMRC will publish the following remaining consultations before the end of July:

> *Civil Investigation of Fraud - Contractual Disclosure Facility*—a discussion document which explores one option for toughening and tightening HMRC's approach to civil investigation of fraud through the concept of a contractual disclosure facility.
>
> *Modernising Customs and Excise Law*—a consultation on modernising the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) 1979 and other customs and excise law with a view to simplifying the legislation, closing the tax gap, removing burdens on business and strengthening the UK's borders.
>
> *VAT: online registration and online filing of VAT returns*—a consultation on the next steps in moving VAT online, and the assistance into digital that will be required in support.
>
> *Digital by Default*—a consultation seeking views on making online the Digital by Default channel to register for direct business taxes (income tax self assessment/class 2 NICs, corporation tax, PAYE).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Homes Programme

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Further to my written statement of 14 February, *Official Report*, column 36WS, I am today announcing the outcomes of the Homes and Communities Agency's invitation for proposals for affordable rent under the Government's affordable homes programme for 2011-15.

The affordable homes programme, which I launched on 9 December 2010, was designed to support the delivery of up to 150,000 new affordable homes through a mixture of new investment (some £4.5 billion over the next four years) and greater flexibility for social housing providers to make the best use of existing and future assets. The new affordable rent model, which will be the principal element of the programme, will make public subsidy go further while enabling local authorities and providers to target support where it is most needed.

When I launched the invitation for bids under the framework in February, I said that my aspiration was to deliver more than 150,000 new affordable homes, and challenged the sector to deliver. The response from providers to the invitation for proposals under this programme has exceeded my original expectations, and I now believe that we will be able to deliver up to 170,000 new affordable homes. The programme I am announcing today includes around 80,000 homes for affordable rent or affordable home ownership, supported by funding of £1.8 billion from the Government.

Further details of the programme can be found at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/affordable-homes

Firebuy Ltd

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): A copy of the annual report and accounts of Firebuy Ltd for the financial year 2009-2010 has today been laid before Parliament.

Firebuy Ltd is an Executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government to help deliver procurement efficiencies for the fire and rescue service in England through nationally negotiated framework contracts with suppliers. It also has a range of contract management and technical functions.

It was announced on 14 October 2010 that Firebuy would be closing in 2011 as part of Government's review of arm's length bodies.

Building Stock

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before Parliament the third report required under the provisions of the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004.

The report considers the progress towards the sustainability of the building stock in England and Wales in the preceding two years. It reports on changes made to building regulations over the period and their expected impact, plans for future legislation, and proposals for the setting of targets in relation to sustainable buildings. The report also covers changes in the energy and carbon efficiency of the building stock, the extent to which buildings have their own facilities for generating energy, and the recycling and reuse of construction materials over the period.

During the period covered by the report, one of the key legislative changes was the introduction of improved energy efficiency requirements to the building regulations and the publication of updated practical and technical guidance with respect to these requirements in October 2010. The new Government have also initiated a programme of work looking at potential deregulatory changes to the building regulations to be introduced in 2013. It also includes work to deliver the Government's commitment to further increase energy efficiency through part L (conservation of fuel and power), delivering the next steps to zero carbon for homes and non-domestic buildings, and will consider the wider policy for the retrofit of existing buildings.

The report also notes this Government's commitment to zero-carbon new homes from 2016 and their announcement as part of the growth review that the 2016 standard would require a 100% reduction of emissions from energy use covered by the building regulations. The report highlights the progress in the last two years in the energy efficiency of dwellings, including heating and insulation measures, as well as providing data on the first year of the Government's feed-in tariff scheme which aims to encourage deployment of additional small-scale low-carbon electricity generation.

Improving the sustainability of the country's building stock is critical to tackling climate change. The Climate Change Committee's recent third annual report reminds us of the size and nature of the challenge. Building regulations have a vital role. The work described in the report which I am publishing today describes the progress which has been made, but we need to take this further, and I expect to return to the House with further proposals in the coming months.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Remote Gambling

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): British consumers face different consumer protection arrangements and have to deal with myriad different regulators and languages depending on where the gambling they are taking part in is regulated. This problem is growing as more countries permit online gambling. At the same time, it is unfair to GB-licensed gambling operators that overseas competitors benefit from access to the market in Great Britain without bearing a fair share of the costs of regulation, or of research, education and treatment of problem gambling.

I am proposing that the Gambling Act should be amended so that remote gambling is regulated on a point of consumption basis, so that all operators selling into the British market, whether from here or abroad, will be required to hold a Gambling Commission licence to enable them to transact with British consumers and to advertise in Great Britain.

As I intend to allow operators anywhere in the world to apply for a Gambling Commission licence, my proposals will mean that the white list will be phased out, although the Gambling Commission will ensure that regulatory good practice is recognised so that overseas-based businesses in trusted jurisdictions such as the white-listed countries, will have much lighter touch approach and, for example, will not have to duplicate regulatory work.

To ensure the minimum disruption for operators in the British market, I intend to put in place a period of transition which will see operators already licensed in EEA member states and the existing white-listed jurisdictions entitled to or eligible for an automatic transitional licence to prevent them having to cease trading.

These proposals are an important measure to help address concerns about problem gambling and to bridge a regulatory gap, by ensuring that British consumers will enjoy consistent standards of protection, no matter which online gambling site they visit. For example, previous work by the Gambling Commission has highlighted deficiencies in some remote operators' arrangements for preventing under-age play, and, for the first time, overseas operators will be required to inform the UK regulator about suspicious betting patterns to help fight illegal activity and corruption in sports betting.

These reforms will ensure consistency and a level playing field as all overseas operators will be subject to the same regulatory standards and requirements as British-based operators.

The Government will work with the Gambling Commission and other stakeholders to develop the detailed arrangements for the new licensing system which will require changes to primary legislation.

Horserace Totalisator Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): In my ministerial written statement to the House on 7 June, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, I announced that the Government have reached a legally binding agreement with Lightcatch Ltd, the parent company of BetFred, for the sale of the Tote. The Government are now able to announce that the sale was completed yesterday.

The Government would like to place on record their gratitude to the board and staff of the Tote, past and present, for their stewardship of the Tote, and to wish the combined businesses of BetFred and the Tote a successful future.

The Government will now enter into detailed discussions with representatives of the racing industry on the design of a scheme for disbursing its share of the net proceeds of sale in a manner which complies with EU state aid rules.

DEFENCE

Defence Vetting Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Key priorities have been set for the chief executive of the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) for financial year 2011-12 to deliver national security vetting and related services for Defence personnel and for contractors working for the Ministry of Defence. Vetting for its repayment customers across Government will be delivered against standards set in individual joint business agreements with the agency.

Following Defence reform, it is likely that vetting services will be provided under a new business model from 2012, and I expect the DVA to be disestablished as a next steps agency from April 2012. The following key priorities are for its final year of operation. They also reflect the introduction in March 2011 of a major new vetting management and information system (Cerberus). As is common in such substantial transition programmes, short-term operating difficulties have been encountered. These are, however, being resolved, and the expected benefits should be delivered within the period covered by the key priorities.

Maintaining quality

Key priority 1: External validation of quality of defence vetting cases.

> To achieve at least a 98% satisfaction rating with 200 cases independently selected and reviewed from a random sample of security cleared (SC) and developed vetting (DV) cases completed in the preceding 12-month period.

Key priority 2: Delivering excellent customer service to all our customers.

> To maintain customer service excellence accreditation.

Restoring service delivery

Key priority 3: For all routine defence cases received after 1 January:

> a. 85% of counter-terrorism checks (CTCs) to be completed within 25 calendar days,
> (improved from 30 days);
>
> b. 85% of SCs to be completed within 25 calendar days, (improved from 30 days);
>
> c. 85% of DVs to be completed within 95 calendar days, (improved from 100 days).

Key priority 4: For all defence priority cases received after 1 October:

> a. 95% of CTCs and SCs to be completed within 10 calendar days, (no change);
>
> b. 95% of DVs completed within 30 calendar days .(no change).

Key priority 5: Completing defence aftercare cases received or scheduled for action after 1 October:

> a. Take into action all aftercare incident reports (AIRs) within seven calendar days of receipt, (no change);
>
> b. Take into action 95% of scheduled aftercare within 30 calendar days of the scheduled date of review, (no change)
>
> c. Taking into action (where appropriate) 95% of security appraisal reviews within 21 days of receipt, (no change).

The above timeliness targets represent net performance that excludes delays outside of the DVA's control.

Business Improvement

Key priority 6: Business transformation

By 30 September 2011 produce a transition plan to implement the move to the Defence Business Support Organisation during autumn 2011, and remove agency status by 31 March 2012 (new).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

DEFRA Agency (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The 2010-11 annual report and accounts for the Food and Environment Research Agency was laid before Parliament on 13 July.

Hazardous Waste (National Policy Statement)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Planning Act 2008 provides for national policy statements (NPSs) that set out Government policy for particular types of development. It requires the draft NPSs to be publicised, consulted on, and laid in Parliament with the intention of enabling public and parliamentary debate to take place.

Public consultation on the hazardous waste NPS for England started today, 14 July, lasting for 14 weeks. At the same time I have laid it before Parliament for a period of scrutiny (the "relevant period") ending 20 January 2012.

The hazardous waste NPS sets out our need for hazardous waste infrastructure to enable hazardous waste to be managed in a way that safeguards human health and protects the environment. Although we are taking steps to minimise the production of all waste, there will remain for the foreseeable future processes that will produce hazardous waste and products that contain hazardous substances and which will need to be managed as hazardous waste when discarded. Hazardous waste arisings remain significant with around 4.8 million tonnes arising in 2008 and are expected to rise further in future years as improvements in waste management such as producer responsibility schemes and European changes to the definition of hazardous waste take effect and require the management of more waste streams separately as hazardous waste. It is important that we have sufficient infrastructure both to manage this waste in an environmentally sound manner and to move the management of hazardous waste up the waste hierarchy so that we maximise the amounts recycled and recovered and minimise amounts sent for disposal.

We look to the market to provide the facilities. The national policy statement for hazardous waste does not make proposals, therefore, for any specific developments. However, it sets out the types of nationally significant infrastructure required and sets a policy framework to guide the determination of applications for development consent.

The hazardous waste NPS is available on the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/07/14/hazardous-waste/.

Agency Key Business Outcomes

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) will work to the following key business outcomes for 2011-12:

Value for money (Operational efficiency and value for money)

Demonstrated by:

Meeting the financial performance target by the end of financial year 2011-12.

Delivering savings in line with the CSR settlement in 2011-12 and producing plans to achieve savings required in later years.

Implementing and harmonising clear SLAs with all customers to reflect their priorities.

Driving sustainability through carbon reduction and water usage reduction.

Customers (Customer satisfaction)

Demonstrated by:

Striving to maintain and develop excellent relationships with the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and with the new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England once it is established.

Designing and implementing a customer insight programme—this will provide the baseline from which, in consultation with customer groups, an improvement plan will be driven for key segments.

Capability, resilience and outbreak management

Demonstrated by:

As far as possible safeguarding resilience in the face of reducing funding levels and continuously working to improve outbreak management through learning from the structured programme of exercises (focusing in 2011-12 on arrangements for resource sharing across Great Britain in the light of the devolution of budgets).

Developing a scanning and surveillance model which will optimise investment (in staff, estate and technology) and maximise the use of external providers and the farming industry to deliver the greatest benefit in the prediction of new and recurring threats.

Implementing release six of the business reform programme to deliver efficiency savings and capability enhancements, ensuring that resilience is protected.

Bovine tuberculosis

Demonstrated by:

Pulling together the joined capabilities on research, evidence generation, analysis and delivery to offer innovative options to policy and industry customers, to support the delivery of TB eradication programmes for England and Wales, and the risk-based testing approach for Scotland.

Further details are given in the AHVLA business plan for 2011-12 a copy of which has been placed on the AHVLA website.

The Centre For Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) will work to the following key business outcomes for 2011-12. These are demonstrated through a combination of detailed metrics and actions summarised as:

Value for money (Finance)

Demonstrated by:

Delivering full cost recovery.

Delivery of sound financial management and governance.

Successful widening of CEFAS' customer base and growth of non DEFRA income.

Delivery of tangible effectiveness gains.

Customers (Customer satisfaction)

Demonstrated by:

Levels of customer satisfaction for each project.

CEFAS impacts: Progress against the four priority DEFRA customer impact areas (CFP reform, marine planning and licensing, evidence needs for marine strategy framework directive and enhancing the sustainable contribution offish and shellfish to UK food security).

Science excellence

Demonstrated by:

Numbers of published papers and media references.

Level of customer satisfaction in scientific quality of work.

Delivery of ongoing investment in new science and capabilities.

Employee engagement

Demonstrated by:

The relative performance in the annual staff survey compared to cross civil service scores.

Delivery of specific actions including sickness absence improvement.

Social Responsibility

Demonstrated by:

Delivery of H&S key performance indicators.

Maintenance of OSHAS18001 and ISO14001 accreditations.

Delivery of sustainability priorities concerning wastewater discharge, increasing volunteering and reduced car travel on business.

Further details are given in the CEFAS business plan for 2011-12, a copy of which has been placed on the CEFAS website.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) will work to the following key business outcomes for 2011-12:

Value for Money

Demonstrated by:

Achieving cost recovery and demonstrating progress in the three elements of value-for-money (economy, efficiency and effectiveness).

Customers

Demonstrated by:

Ensuring that at least 80% of customers in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry consider the level of service provided by the VMD to be good or excellent and that the VMD act on areas identified requiring improvement within the confines of the available resources.

Policy customers in DEFRA and Other Government Departments considering the level of service provided by the VMD to be satisfactory.

Operations/Policy Delivery

Demonstrated by:

Authorising veterinary medicinal products according to legislative requirements and their ongoing benefit: risk assessment remaining positive through taking proportionate action on quality, safety and efficacy as necessary.

Providing evidence of actions that encourage the responsible, safe and effective use of veterinary medicinal products according to the legislative requirements through proportionate surveillance and inspection activities—and where necessary using enforcement action to detect and deter illegal use.

Ensuring UK policy principles influence EU legislative change, further the principles of market harmonisation and the development of efficient and effective procedures and guidance within the European Medicines Regulatory Network.

Capacity and Capability

Demonstrated by:

Ensuring the VMD utilises its funding streams efficiently to maintain capability and capacity to deliver its business objectives and is fit for purpose.

Further details are given in the VMD business plan for 2011-12 to 2014-15, a copy of which has been placed on the VMD website.

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) will work to the following key business outcomes for 2011-12:

Value for money (financial performance)

Demonstrated by:

Meeting agreed financial performance, service delivery and efficiency targets.

Customers (Customer focus)

Demonstrated by:

Delivering the outcomes detailed in the DEFRA/Fera SLA through the provision of independent and impartial advice.

Performance

Demonstrated by:

Delivering effective and efficient plant health, bee health and PVS policy services and outcomes.

Science Capability and Incident Response

Demonstrated by:

Providing a robust food and environmental research, response and recovery capability that supports Fera's, DEFRA's and wider Government requirements.

Leadership

Demonstrated by:

Developing and maintaining a culture of ownership and accountability that values everyone for their contribution.

Embedding Sustainability and Support for the Big Society

Demonstrated by:

Driving value by maximising the exploitation of our assets and embedding the principles of sustainability further into our business operations.

Further details are given in the Fera business plan for 2011-12, a copy of which has been placed on the Fera website.

The Rural Payments Agency will work to the following interim key business outcomes for 2011-12:

Value for money (Effectively delivering accurate and timely payments)

Demonstrated by:

The single payment scheme fund being paid, in an accurate and cost-effective manner, between 1 December 2011 and 30 June 2012.

(i) SPS 2011 payments by value to customers in regulatory window (> 95.238% by 30 June 2012).

(ii) Additional indicators to be available after the delivery of the RPA strategic improvement plan.

To process and pay valid claims for trader schemes and rural development implementation schemes.

(i) 90% within Ministerial guidelines (28 days).

(ii) 99% within set EU Commission deadlines or in their absence 60 days of receipt of the claim.

Customers (Putting customers at the heart of Agency delivery)

Demonstrated by:

Demonstrating strong commitment to focus on customers by delivering a clear set of customer service standards for the end of August 2011.

Delivering operational excellence

Demonstrated by:

Minimising the risk of disallowance and make payments accurate to within materiality for all subsidy schemes under RPA's direct management with current indicative levels.

Further details are given in the interim RPA business plan for 2011-12, a copy of which has been placed on the RPA website. That plan, including objectives and indicators will be reviewed and updated when a longer-term strategic plan is implemented in late summer.

Copies of the business plans will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Veterinary Residues Committee

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): On 14 October 2010, the Government announced the outcome of their review of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). This reported that the majority of DEFRA's scientific and technical advisory bodies were to be abolished and reconstituted as expert scientific committees to provide advice on specific areas. As part of implementing these reforms, the Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC), which is a non-statutory advisory NDPB, will be reconstituted as an expert scientific committee on 14 July 2011.

The VRC will continue to support DEFRA, the devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency on the scope and operation of surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines in food and the significance to consumers of any residues detected.

The committee's membership and new terms of reference can be found on the VRC's website: www.vmd.gov.uk/vrc.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 18 July. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

Initiatives in the area of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

We expect Baroness Ashton to present a report on CSDP which will be used as the basis for a discussion by Ministers. This follows an interim report which was presented to Defence Ministers at a FAC on 23 May. We are keen to support any initiatives that ensure the EU and NATO complement each other better. More generally, we will encourage the continued development of European civilian and military capabilities, and improvement to the co-ordination between EU civilian and military planning structures to help achieve a more joined up approach to crisis management. But we are opposed to the creation of any new institutions.

Southern Neighbourhood (Syria/Lebanon/Libya)

On Syria, we expect the Council to agree conclusions which will keep up the pressure on the Syrian regime to end the violence engage in meaningful reforms and take forward a genuine and inclusive national dialogue.

We also expect conclusions on Lebanon which, while we recognise the complex challenges of the country's internal political structure, make clear our expectations that the new Government uphold their international obligations, particularly by committing to co-operate with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

And on Libya, we expect EU Ministers to take their lead on the discussion at the contact group meeting due to be held on 15 July. We may also take the opportunity to remind Ministers of the need to push ahead with implementation of the ambitious new approach to the region set out in the new European neighbourhood policy endorsed by the European Council and the FAC in June.

Climate Change and Security

Following a joint request by the Foreign Secretary and his German counterpart, Dr Westerwelle, that the FAC discuss climate change in the light of the urgent and serious threat it poses to growth and security. Foreign Ministers will have the opportunity to consider the respective roles they, the High Representative, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and National Diplomatic Services can play in responding to climate change. Our view is that there is a need for greater emphasis on this in both member states' and the EEAS's approaches to foreign policy. We also expect the adoption of formal conclusions.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

The 18 July FAC will receive a report from Baroness Ashton on the 11 July quartet meeting. We expect Ministers will want to support quartet efforts to get the Israelis and Palestinians back into direct talks. There is also likely to be a discussion of how the EU should respond to proposals for a UN vote on Palestinian statehood in September.

Pakistan

We welcome the opportunity to discuss Pakistan. We want to emphasise Pakistan's strategic importance to the EU, and the need to re-energise the EU-Pakistan relationship. We would like conclusions which include commitments that will lead to a broader and deeper relationship and set the framework for a third EU-Pakistan summit.

Afghanistan

Discussion on Afghanistan is likely to cover a wide range of issues including security transition, the EU's long-term engagement with Afghanistan, and the EU police mission (EU POL). We will encourage a focused discussion, emphasising the importance of the EU's commitment to Afghanistan post-2014 and urging progress on key areas of the EU's expertise such as governance and capacity building.

Strategic Partners

If there is time. Ministers may consider the EU's relations with its strategic partners. They would focus in particular on Brazil and South Africa (given forthcoming EU summits with those countries in October and September respectively). They may also cover China, Russia and the US, following Baroness Ashton's work last year to define EU priorities with those countries. We are keen that the EU identifies concrete goals, preferably using its trade levers, with each country. And that the EU places an equally high priority on its relations with India.

General Affairs Council (GAC)

Multiannual Financial Framework

The European Commission will present their proposals for the EU budget multiannual financial framework 2014-2020. The proposals can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/index_en.cfm.

This could be the opportunity to remind the Commission of the joint letter to the President of the European Commission signed by the Prime Minister and leaders from Germany, France, the Netherlands and Finland in December 2011. This letter can be found at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/statements-and-articles/2010/12/letter-to-president-of-european-commission-58224.

Reform of the Statue of the European Court of Justice

The Court of Justice of the European Union has submitted a number of proposals for reform to improve its efficiency and, in particular, to clear the significant backlog of cases in the General Court (GC). The GC is important because it has jurisdiction to hear at first instance competition and trademark cases that are vital to the functioning of the single market. The key proposal is to increase the number of judges in the GC by 12, from 27 to 39, at a cost of an additional €13.6 million a year. While we support reform, we will have to take account of the need to deliver real budgetary restraint at EU-level.

Presentation of the Presidency's Programme

Ministers will be given a presentation by the Polish presidency on their main priorities for the next six months. More information on the Polish presidency can be found at: http://pl2011.eu/en.

June European Council

Ministers will discuss follow-up to the June European Council, which covered migration, economic policy, north Africa and the middle east. Following the Council, the Prime Minister reported the outcomes to the House in his statement on the

"Statement on the European Council".

The statement can be found at the following link:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2011/06/statement-on-european-council-meeting-2-65137

The conclusions of the June European Council meeting can be found at: http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st00/st00023.en11.pdf.

Malawi (Bilateral Relations)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I would like to update the House on the outcome of the review of the UK's relations with Malawi which I announced in a written statement on 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 13WS. This followed Malawi's unwarranted decision to expel our High Commissioner.

I told the House on that occasion, the FCO had already instructed Malawi's acting high commissioner in London to leave, which she did. Her invitation to attend the royal wedding was also rescinded.

The review covered the full range of the UK's relations with Malawi, including migration, defence relations, and educational and cultural relations. This review has been undertaken in close consultation with the Secretary of State for International Development as it also covered development assistance. Aid from all donors accounts for one-third of the Malawian Government's budget; the UK is one of the largest bilateral donors. The review also took into account the very significant links between Scotland and Malawi, which are an integral part of the overall relationship. The overriding principle in conducting this review was to demonstrate the serious consequences which we told Malawi would come from a decision to expel the British high commissioner, without letting the Malawian people suffer for the actions of their Government.

Our position remains that, while formal diplomatic relations continue to exist between the UK and Malawi, the UK will not appoint a new high commissioner to Malawi for the time being; nor will we accept a new high commissioner from Malawi to the UK.

We have also taken certain measures concerning our visa service for senior Malawian visitors to the UK. The present visa arrangements for all other Malawian citizens however are unaffected.

The review also considered the UK's relations with Malawi in the context of the various international organisations to which we both belong—particularly the Commonwealth—as well as of Malawi's relations with the European Union. The UK will not be supporting Malawian candidates for elections to international organisations of which the UK is a member for the time being.

On the issue of UK aid to Malawi, my right hon. Friend the International Development Secretary has decided to halt all general budget support until progress has been made in economic management, but to continue the programmes which protect Malawi's many poor people.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): EU Health Ministers met in Sopot, Poland for an informal meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 5 and 6 July. I represented the UK.

There was a discussion on the prevention and treatment of communication disorders among children. Member states stressed the importance of improving access to screening for communication disorders and early intervention.

The presidency presented an item on organ donation, which focused on sharing of best practice to improve donation rates across the EU.

The presidency highlighted the risks presented by the growing availability of "designer drugs". Member states encouraged the sharing of information to help address the issue.

Member states received an update on the recent E.coli outbreak in Germany and France and the measures put forward by the European Commission to control the marketing of seeds from Egypt.

In a discussion on health determinants, diet and physical activity. Member states emphasised the importance of addressing inequalities between and within member states, through a range of mechanisms including social, economic and behavioural change.

During a discussion on e-health. Member states outlined development at a national level and considered work at EU level.

Finally, Sweden raised the issue of the environmental impact of pharmaceutical production in third countries. This attracted support from several member states, including the UK.

HEALTH

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People"

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am laying before Parliament "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and way forward" (Cm 8132), which sets out the progress we have made in developing our vision for public health, and a timeline for completing the operational design of this work through a series of public health system reform updates.

The White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England" (Cm7985), described a new era for public health, with a higher priority and dedicated resources. It set out that local authorities would take new responsibilities for public health, tackling the wider determinants of health, supported by a ring-fenced budget, with directors of public health leading on this work locally. A new integrated public health service, Public Health England, would bring together in one body the diverse range of public health expertise to provide public health advice and support at all levels of the system.

The White Paper generated real enthusiasm for a new approach to public health. We want to maintain this momentum, and by setting out progress to date, and clear next steps, we aim to reduce uncertainty and encourage local authorities and public health professionals to continue to plan and build the local relationships and partnerships that will be key to implementing the new public health system.

This policy statement sets out how we expect the reformed public health system to work and the progress we have made in a number of areas, including the role and functions of Public Health England as an executive agency. It sets out greater clarity about the role of the Director of Public Health within local government, including how public health advice will be provided to help inform NHS commissioning. It provides an update in relation to commissioning routes for public health funded activity and provides greater clarity around roles and responsibilities for preparedness, resilience and response to health protection incidents and emergencies. It also indicates the functions we plan to mandate of local authorities, and what general conditions we intend to place on the ring-fence grant.

The high-quality of consultation responses received also helped us to identify where we need to do further work to address concerns raised around a number of policy and implementation issues. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders to ensure that by the autumn we have developed credible policy and implementation solutions for those issues which need further development. We will produce a series of public health system reform updates to complete the operational design of the public health system including on: the public health outcomes framework; the Public Health England Operating Model, public health in local government and the role of the Director of Public Health; public health funding; and a workforce strategy.

Copies of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and way forward" are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

The document is also available at:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/
Healthyliveshealthypeople/index.htm

HOME DEPARTMENT

Code of Practice (Examining Officers)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I am today issuing a Home Office circular to all chief constables advising them that the code of practice for examining officers introduced by order SI NO 2009/1593, following resolutions of both Houses, contains a factual inaccuracy in the TACT2 (Notice of Detention) form included as annex B. The Criminal Defence Service (General) (No.2) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (SI NO 712 2002) provide that the Legal Services Commission shall fund advice and assistance as it considers appropriate in relation to any person detained under schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. This was not reflected in the TACT2 form included in the code of practice. The Home Office circular provides a revised form, which examining officers are required to use. This advises those detained under schedule 7 that they may consult with a solicitor and that this may be at public expense (subject to the normal requirements of merit and means testing). We will lay a draft revised code of practice before Parliament in due course.

Criminal Records Bureau (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I am pleased to announce that the 2010-11 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau is being laid before the House today and published on the CRB website. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Direct Airside Transit Regime (Yemen)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have written to the Government of the Republic of Yemen announcing that on 14 July 2011 we will be imposing a Direct Airside Transit Visa (DATV) regime on Yemeni citizens who wish to transit at a UK airport.

Britain is a major hub for transit passengers travelling on long-haul flights. Since 2003 we have required certain nationalities to obtain a visa (DATV) before they travel even if they are arriving at and leaving from the same airport. This was introduced as an immigration tool to prevent people destroying their documents before claiming asylum (possibly using a false identity or nationality) on arrival at a UK airport.

The implementation of the first DATV regime helped to export the UK border and allowed us to run comprehensive checks on those transiting the UK. Since the original introduction of the DATV there has been a noticeable fall in transit passengers destroying their travel documents before claiming asylum. And where they do, the information we have collected as part of the application process (including biometrics) makes identifying and re-documenting them simpler.

Since the introduction of the DATV regime a number of countries have been added to the list of those required to obtain clearance before transiting the UK. This has been done in response to emerging counter-terrorism threats to the UK. We are already committed to reviewing the whole DATV regime when we conduct the next visa waiver test.

Recent events have highlighted Yemen as being of real and pressing concern to the international community. It was in Yemen that the Detroit bomber received his training and it was the source of the bombs disguised as toner cartridges in cargo aircraft last October. We feel that imposing a DATV regime on those Yemeni citizens who are transiting the UK is a sensible and proportionate response to the threat.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): I am pleased to announce that today my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and I are publishing the annual report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Copies of the report have been laid before the House and will be available in the Vote Office.

This is the seventh annual report from the IPCC. The report covers the work of the IPCC during 2010-2011 and includes a discrete chapter on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

JUSTICE

Office for Judicial Complaints

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): With the agreement of the Lord Chief Justice, I will today publish the annual report of the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC). The OJC provides support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

This report is the fifth published by the OJC, and marks the end of a year which has seen the OJC transition from an arm's-length body, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, to become a part of the Judicial Office, which supports the Lord Chief Justice and senior judiciary in discharging their responsibilities.

While now a part of the Judicial Office, the OJC retains both its operational and decision-making independence and continues to report to both myself and the Lord Chief Justice on matters relating to judicial conduct and discipline. I am confident that this arrangement will realise significant administrative and organisational savings while protecting the independence of the investigatory and disciplinary process.

I am pleased to note that the OJC continues to deliver an effective complaint-handling service to all of its customers, which is both transparent and efficient; processing over 1,600 complaints and 800 inquiries in the last year. None the less, it is always possible to seek further efficiencies and improvements and to that end the Lord Chief Justice and I have agreed that the OJC should conduct a thorough review of the Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations to identify any areas where the disciplinary process may be improved or streamlined. That review is ongoing and the OJC will be consulting key stakeholders and inviting submissions from interested parties before providing both the Lord Chief Justice and myself with recommendations in 2012.

Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the report are also available on the internet at http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm.

Justice's of the Peace Act 1949 (Compensation) Regulations

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am announcing today that I have approved a recommendation by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service that the Justice of the Peace Act 1949 (Compensation) Regulations as amended (known as "Crombie" regulations) are to be revoked by a statutory instrument that will be laid before Parliament on the 14 July 2011.

Under arrangements dating back to 1949 justices' clerks and their assistants are currently entitled to receive higher compensation than other civil servants—in certain circumstances—for loss of office, resettlement and retirement. We have a duty to ensure that we get value for taxpayers' money and following consultation the Ministry of Justice has decided to revoke this entitlement.

All civil servants, including justices' clerks and their assistants will continue to benefit from the protection of the civil service compensation scheme.

Copies of the response to consultation on the proposal to revoke the "Crombie" regulations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Pensions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): I am today announcing the next step in the Government's approach to MPs' pensions.

On 26 July 2010, I issued a written ministerial statement (*Official Report*, column 70WS) on the publication of the Senior Salaries Review Body's (SSRB) fundamental review of parliamentary pensions. This statement also set out our longer-term approach to the reform of MPs' pensions, including our expectation that the current final salary terms of the scheme would end. The SSRB report was a thoughtful and welcome consideration of the pension arrangements for Members of Parliament. However, as recognised at the time, there had been several developments in the area that could not be ignored in reaching a sustainable conclusion on the issue.

The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, which achieved Royal Assent in April 2010, conferred powers on the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) to determine hon. Members' salary and pensions, independently of the House. The independent determination and administration of these matters is a crucial part of the process of restoring trust in Parliament, and any decision to defer the move to independence will result in MPs continuing to determine their own remuneration, which the House has firmly rejected.

Additionally, the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness, was established in June 2010, and published its Final Report on 10 March 2011. We have consistently made clear that parliamentary pensions must be reformed in the light of the Commission's findings and subsequent application to other public service schemes. There is no case for MPs being treated differently from other public servants on this issue.

As the next step, I will table a motion before the House rises for the summer recess. This will invite the House to support the approach to public service pension reform set out in the Final Report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission. The motion will propose that IPSA should introduce a new pension scheme for MPs by 2015, informed by the Commission's findings, and their subsequent application to other public service pension schemes. In recognising the case for an increase in pensions contributions made in Lord Hutton's interim report, the motion will invite IPSA to increase contribution rates for hon. Members from 1 April 2012 in line with changes in pension contribution rates for other public service schemes.

The motion, which will be debated, will also reassert the importance of independent determination of MPs' remuneration. Subsequently, I will commence the relevant sections of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, transferring all future responsibility for MPs' pensions to IPSA.

This approach is similar to the one followed for MPs' pay, where the House resolved to freeze pay, before the relevant commencement order transferred responsibility to IPSA.

Once responsibility for MPs' pensions has been transferred to IPSA, MPs will have finally relinquished the power to set the terms of their own remuneration. Given the failure of self-regulation, which so damaged Parliament's reputation, this represents a significant step in drawing a line under the problems of the past and rebuilding public confidence.

TRANSPORT

Aviation Security

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Today I am launching a consultation on the Government's proposals to modernise the way we regulate aviation security. Better regulation for aviation security proposes a new outcome focused, risk-based approach to regulation which builds on the successful and similar approach to aviation safety.

While the UK is recognised internationally as having one of the most effective aviation security regimes in the world, we also face a continuing threat from international and domestic terrorism. The Government's recent strategic defence and security review set out their proposals for securing Britain in an age of uncertainty and included a commitment to improve aviation security.

The proposals in this consultation offer a new approach to the regulation of aviation security. Our current system can place significant financial burdens on the aviation industry along with inconvenience to passengers, and could be more consistent with the Government's better regulation principles. I think we can do better—with a new regime that maintains and improves security standards but in a more efficient and passenger-friendly way.

I therefore propose that the Government should move from prescribing security processes to setting security outcomes. This will give airports and airlines greater flexibility to deliver high standards of security in ways that that are better integrated with their day-to-day business and designed around the needs of the passenger. It will allow them to adopt appropriate new technology as it become available. I want to move away from the current, highly prescriptive, one-size-fits-all approach where all operators run the same regime to one where industry takes a more proactive and more innovative and tailored approach to security.

This approach will also enable the regulator to operate a system of "earned autonomy"—rewarding those operators with the most robust systems of aviation security with greater trust in how they deliver the specified outcomes. Conversely, the level of scrutiny by the regulator will increase proportionately where any concerns arise about the delivery of the required outcomes.

The safety and security of passengers will remain of paramount importance to the Government, and so the new arrangements will have robust oversight procedures in place to ensure security standards are not compromised. To do this, I am proposing to require all industry operators to develop a security management system. This would demonstrate a clear commitment to providing an overall high-level of security and set out how security outcomes specified by the UK regulator and EU requirements will be delivered. Integral to this will be robust internal quality assurance and auditing arrangements which will complement the regulator's own assurance and compliance processes.

The consultation also proposes new reporting arrangements whereby industry will regularly report to the regulator on performance and occurrences (including the rectification measures to be taken). This gives the regulator a fuller picture on which to base decisions and direct regulatory effort. I also propose to introduce a system that allows staff to report on a confidential basis any concerns relating to aviation security. These proposed arrangements will provide an additional layer of assurance.

This approach offers a new partnership between Government and the industry, one that is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards in aviation security while also improving the passenger experience.

These are complex proposals, which require further development in consultation with the aviation industry and other interested parties. The Department for Transport will be making extensive efforts to engage industry during the consultation process to explain the proposals further and to seek input.

Following the end of the consultation, the Government will then consider all responses and produce a summary report along with next steps. I will make a further statement to the House at that point.

Coastguard Modernisation

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I will be making an oral statement later today, following the Leader of the House's business question.

Humber Bridge (Debts) Order 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am pleased to announce that I have today laid the Humber Bridge (Debts) Order.2011 before Parliament.

The order provides for the interest rate payable on the debt owed by the Humber bridge board to the Department for Transport to continue to remain at the reduced rate equivalent to 4.25% on the total debt of £332 million during the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2016. The debt represents borrowing from Government for the construction of the Humber bridge and the subsequent capitalisation of annual deficits in the early years of its operation.

Without this order, the interest rate payable on that part of the debt not suspended (£275 million) would revert to 7.75%, as set by the Humber Bridge (Debts) Order 1998. The value of the interest rate reduction to the Humber bridge board amounts to £48 million over the five years, which the board can use to fund maintenance and renewals and/or to make capital repayments.

This order demonstrates a major commitment by this Government to the council taxpayers, travelling public and businesses of the Humber area. Without it, the Humber bridge board would have been obliged either to surcharge council taxpayers in the Humber area, or to increase the tolls on the bridge by as much as 60%.

The arrangement forms part of the base case for second phase of the Humber bridge review announced on 14 June, and is made separately to the process of the review, which is now under way and on which the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and I will make a further announcement in November.

I have stated that the reduced interest rate on the loan is the equivalent of 4.25% payable on the entire debt of £332 million. In 2011-12 this will comprise 5.13% charged on the active portion of the debt (£275 million) and nil payable on the suspended portion of the debt (£57 million). As set out in the 1998 Order, the suspended portion of the debt will progressively be added back into the active debt over the three years to 2014. The interest rate will be reduced accordingly to equate to the 4.25% on the whole debt. Therefore the rate payable on the active debt in the three years 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be 5.13%, 4.82% and 4.52% respectively.

This order is made under the provisions of the Humber Bridge (Debts) Act 1996, and comes into force on 9 August. Upon the coming into force of this order, a revised loan agreement will be signed between the Secretary of State and the Humber bridge board.

South East Airports Taskforce

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): On 15 June 2010, the Government announced the establishment of the South East Airports Taskforce with representatives from the aviation industry to explore the scope for measures to help make the most of existing airport infrastructure and improve conditions for all users. I chaired the taskforce. Its focus was on action at our three biggest airports—Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Today I am announcing the publication of the taskforce's final report.

The taskforce was given a challenging remit. It had 12 months to identify operational improvements that could enhance the performance of these airports and bring benefits to passengers. The report is the culmination of a year-long programme of work across seven areas, including punctuality, security and border controls. It sets out the issues considered by the taskforce and its conclusions.

I would draw particular attention to the chapter on improving punctuality, tackling delay and strengthening resilience. The focus of this chapter is on Heathrow, which is the UK's biggest, busiest and most capacity constrained airport. The main recommendation is that the scope for establishing a set of operational freedoms at Heathrow should be explored. These would enable the greater use of tactical measures in defined and limited circumstances to prevent or mitigate disruption and to facilitate recovery. These measures are consistent with our commitment to runway alternation at the airport and there would be no increase in the number of flights at the airport which will remain capped at current levels.

Tactical measures, such as operating twin arrivals streams for limited periods to tackle inbound delays, are already used at Heathrow; implementation of these proposals would mean greater use of such measures on days when the airport faced particular disruption. The taskforce has concluded that such an approach would deliver benefits, particularly in improving reliability, but would also mean some limited redistribution of noise when measures were applied.

The work carried out so far indicates that the proposals could result in net environmental benefits,—for example, through reducing stacking and cutting the number of unscheduled flights during the night period. However, on the limited occasions where these freedoms would operate, some communities would be likely to experience aircraft noise during current respite periods; hence the need for safeguards to ensure they are deployed only to anticipate, prevent and mitigate disruption and to facilitate recovery.

Before any commitment is made to implementing such operational freedoms, better evidence is needed of the potential benefits and impacts. I am therefore announcing a phased trial of operational freedoms at Heathrow. The trial will provide firm evidence on the benefits and impacts of these measures and will provide a basis for consultation with local communities before a decision is taken on whether the proposed additional operational freedoms should be adopted on a permanent basis and what safeguards should apply in relation to their use.

The trial will be in two phases to enable evidence to be gathered for both winter and summer operations. Following engagement with local communities, the first phase will run from November 2011 to February 2012, followed by a four-month period of initial assessment and further engagement on how the regime might be refined to mitigate any impacts of particular concern and deliver additional benefits.

The second phase will run from July 2012 to September 2012, providing the added benefit of enabling greater resilience during the London Olympic and Paralympic games when the UK's airports will be under more pressure than normal. The trial will be undertaken by BAA, the airport operator, under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Authority, the independent aviation regulator.

BAA will be required to engage fully and transparently with relevant local authorities, communities and other stakeholders throughout the process, particularly on the monitoring of noise impacts. Once assessed, the results of the trial will form the basis for a consultation with local communities which would in due course inform the Government in deciding whether an operational freedoms regime should be adopted at Heathrow.

I am grateful to the taskforce members not only for their constructive input into the taskforce over the past few months, but also for their continuing commitment to delivering real improvements for passengers. I intend to reconvene the taskforce in a year's time to review the progress made.

Copies of the report document are available from the Department's website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Capability Assessment

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): Today the Government will publish a call for evidence as part of Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA).

In November 2010 we published Professor Harrington's first review, which was the first of five annual independent reviews of the WCA. Professor Harrington concluded that the WCA was not broken but made a number of recommendations to improve its fairness and effectiveness. We fully endorsed his review and have implemented the vast majority of its recommendations, with all the recommendations relating to IB reassessment already in place.

We reappointed Professor Harrington to undertake the second year review of the WCA and this call for evidence will be one of several methods used to gather information to support the review and inform its recommendations. The call for evidence is particularly interested in views and evidence about:

- The implementation of Professor Harrington's year 1 recommendations and the impact they are having;

What, if any, further work is required in future reviews; and

The face-to-face assessment.

The call for evidence runs until 16 September 2011.

Professor Harrington will make his final recommendations to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by the end of the year.

A copy of the call for evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/employment-and-support/wca-independent-review.

Informal Employment and Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The informal meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers took place on 7-8 July 2011 in Sopot, Poland. The Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), who is responsible for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, represented the United Kingdom.

The theme for this informal meeting was active labour market policies and reconciliation of work and family life. On the first day of the meeting, the presidency invited views on how to increase the effectiveness of pro-active employment policies through greater competition. The Commission stressed the need to improve further the efficiency of public employment services. For the United Kingdom, my hon. Friend, delivered a keynote speech explaining how, in the UK, we are using competition to help reduce the numbers of people on-out-of work benefits. He highlighted that the recently introduced Work programme aimed to help those furthest from the labour market, including providing support for people moving off incapacity benefit and those coming from the most challenging backgrounds. This support would be provided by specialist private and voluntary sector providers, rewarded on a payment-by-results approach. The funding for this programme would come from savings generated as well as from the European Social Fund.

On the second day, there were three simultaneous workshops aimed at sharing national experiences covering: reconciliation of work and family life; raising the retirement age; and solidarity between generations. The United Kingdom chose to participate in the workshop discussing reconciliation of work and family life. My hon. Friend, described the success of the right to request flexible working and how the Government plan to extend this to all employees. He further described how the United Kingdom Government are consulting on changes to its parental leave system to make it more flexible by allowing greater sharing of leave between partners and for leave to be taken in blocks rather than a continuous period. Other member states described their own domestic priorities. In conclusion, the presidency once again underlined the value of sharing experiences and stated that its family ministerial conference on 21 October would build on these discussions by focusing on reconciliation of work and family life issues including the pregnant workers directive.

Social Fund Reports

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): The Secretary of State's annual report on the Social Fund for 2010-11 is to be laid before Parliament and published later today. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Social Fund Commissioner's report will also be published today and copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 18 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

English for Speakers of Other Languages

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): I am today publishing the equality impact assessment of provision of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) training, which I ordered earlier this year. I did so because of my determination that necessary additional cost-effectiveness should not unduly disadvantage vulnerable individuals in vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, I have asked the Association of Colleges to advise on developing with key providers an effective methodology for targeting funds at settled communities in which language barriers inhibit individual opportunity and community cohesion. Given the respective work that Lord Boswell and Baroness Sharp are doing on adult literacy and colleges in communities I have asked that they are involved in this work.

Simultaneously, we will devise means by which the quality of ESOL can be measured more effectively with a new emphasis on familiar benefits, progression to further learning and employment. I will discuss measurements of quality with Ofsted.

By targeting public funding on those in greatest need, and setting higher standards for providers, our reforms will make ESOL provision work better for learners, employers, and taxpayers.

Between 2001 and 2005 ESOL enrolments tripled, and Government spending peaked at £271 million. Despite policy introduced in 2006-7 to limit automatic fee remission to those on income-related benefits, by 2008-9 spending had only fallen to £250 million. We are, therefore, determined to continue to regain control of spending by introducing the further measures.

From August this year, full Government funding for ESOL courses will be available only for people on jobseeker's allowance and employment support allowance (work related activity group) to help them find work. As part of a broader move towards rebalancing the investment in skills between Government, the employer and the learner, other eligible learners will be expected to make a contribution towards their course fees.

It is unacceptable that the public purse pays for free English language training for people who have come here to take up work—companies that recruit abroad must take full responsibility for that decision.

But I know that, in particular, there are women and families who rely on community-based English language to help them communicate with their children's schools, as well as opening the door to other public services.

I am, therefore, pleased to announce that we will work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government on developing new forms of support for those who need informal, community-based learning of English.

I am placing a copy of the impact assessment in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and the Republic of Armenia)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A new double taxation convention with the Republic of Armenia was signed on 13 July 2011. The text of the convention has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Isle of Man Indirect Tax Revenue Sharing

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Treasury has agreed a revision to the formula governing the sharing of joint indirect tax revenues under the 1979 Customs and Excise agreement with the Isle of Man.

The new formula is intended to give the Isle of Man the revenue that they would collect if they ran their own indirect tax system, while providing the Isle of Man with generous transitional payments. In 2010 the Isle of Man changed the way that it measured its national income to more closely follow international standards. Under the previous formula this would have implied a significant increase in the Isle of Man's share of joint revenues. The new formula provides the Isle of Man with a share of joint indirect tax revenues similar to that which the UK Treasury expected when the last formula was agreed in 2009.

The Treasury welcomes the recognition by Isle of Man Government that the previous revenue sharing formula was not sustainable and we are pleased that a new formula has been agreed, following negotiations. The Treasury hopes that it provides a stable and secure basis for the long-term future of the Customs and Excise agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime: 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (the Act), the Treasury is required to report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the UK's asset-freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This is the second report under the Act and it covers the period from 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011[1].

This report also covers the operation of the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

As of 30 June 2011, a total of just under £230,000[2] of funds were held frozen in the UK. This covers funds frozen under the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, and also funds frozen under the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1267.

(1) UK's domestic terrorist asset freezing regime under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

As of 30 June 2011, a total of 85 accounts containing just over £120,000 were frozen in the UK under the domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime. No new accounts were frozen during the quarter.

Operation of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

Asset-freezing designations and reviews

In the period 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011, the Treasury made no new designations under the Act and did not conduct any reviews of existing designations.

Licensing

Maintaining a fair and effective licensing system is crucial to ensuring the overall proportionality of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset-freeze in accordance with a UN or EU listing, or domestic designation. A licensing framework is put in place for each person in the UK on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and implementing asset-freezes in a proportionate way. Licences contain appropriate controls to protect against the risk of the diversion of funds for terrorist finance.

A total of four licences were issued this quarter under the Act in relation to three persons subject to an asset-freeze.

In addition to issuing licences relating to a specific person, the Treasury may also issue general licences, which apply to all persons designated under a particular regime or regimes. Licences are granted where there is a legitimate need for such transactions to proceed and where they can proceed without giving rise to any risk of terrorist finance.

No general licences were issued this quarter under the Act.

Legal Challenges

Two legal challenges against designations made under both the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 and the Act were ongoing in the quarter under review.

(2) UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime

The UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime, established under UNSCR 1267, is implemented in the UK by Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002. Enforcement measures are provided for in the UK's al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010.

In June, the UN adopted resolutions 1988 and 1989 which split the UNSCR 1267 al-Qaeda and Taliban regime into two separate regimes. The UN also introduced welcome new due process reforms including strengthening the role of the ombudsperson and enhancing arrangements for reviewing designations.

This quarterly report covers the combined al-Qaeda and Taliban 1267 regime. Future reports will cover the operation in the UK of the 1989 al-Qaeda regime and the 1373 regime only, as the Taliban regime will be taken forward on a basis similar to other country sanctions.

As of 30 June 2011, a total of 84 accounts containing just under £110,000[3] were frozen in the UK under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

Designations

During this quarter, the EU added three people to the list in annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002.

Six people were delisted during the quarter, none of whom had UK connections.

Licences

Seven individual licences were issued in this quarter in relation to three persons subject to an asset-freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime. One of these licences was revoked.

(3) Proceedings

In the quarter to 30 June 2011, no proceedings were initiated in respect of breaches of the prohibitions of the Act or the al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects the most updated account balances available and includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 05/07/11.

[3] Includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds in the UK.

Remote Gambling

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): On Thursday 14 July, the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose), who is responsible for tourism and heritage, announced that he proposes that the Gambling Act should be amended so that remote gambling is regulated on a point of consumption basis. Under this proposal all operators, whether from here or abroad, will be required to hold a Gambling Commission licence to enable them to transact with British consumers. I will review the case for changing the taxation regime in line with my hon. Friend's proposal and taxing operators on the basis of customer location.

Separately, other countries are also changing both their regulatory and taxation regimes for remote gambling. I will consider the tax implications of these developments. In particular, I will consider ways to prevent operators in the UK being subject to double taxation on remote gambling in the shorter-term.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): In the interests of delivering greater transparency I am today making available the written representations received by the Department for Communities and Local Government from local authorities during the consultation period on the 2011-12 provisional local government finance settlement. Copies of all written representations from local authorities received can be found at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/consultreps/index.htm

This opening up of this year's local government finance settlement is provided in the context of the announcement we are making today to change the way local government is funded through the local retention of business rates from 2013.

The new system should reduce councils' dependency on central Government and ensure they channel their energies into investing in local growth, rather than, as now and as illustrated in these written representations, focusing on lobbying for more resources at the expense of other local authorities.

This statement updates the number of responses given in the written ministerial statement of 31 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 26-28WS, about the consultation on the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12. Responses were received from 230 local authorities.

Background

The last Government left the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history—with the state forecast to borrow £146 billion a year in 2010-11, or £400 million being borrowed every single day. The coalition Government's savings will help eliminate the structural current deficit by 2014-15. This will help keep interest rates down, restore economic stability and reduce the amount of taxpayers' money that would otherwise be spent on debt interest. As with a credit card bill, the longer one leaves to pay the debt off, the worse it gets. If a Government live beyond their means, it will mean higher taxes or deeper spending reductions in the future.

Councils account for around a quarter of all public expenditure, so they must play their part in the coalition Government's determination to tackle the deficit. Even so, Ministers made several changes to the way central Government grant is shared out between authorities to achieve a fair and sustainable settlement.

The coalition Government took into account that some councils are very dependent on central Government grant. The weight given to levels of need in the formula was increased, so that more money follows socio-economic indicators. Four different bands were set for damping purposes for authorities in different circumstances, reflecting their relative reliance on central Government grant. These banded floors ensure that the most dependent authorities get the smallest reductions.

Ministers also smoothed the impact of the reductions and limited the need for councils to front-load their spending reductions. Reductions in overall spending power were limited to no more than 8.8% for all councils in 2011-12. The transition grant funding provided to limit losses—some £96 million this year—is going to the most dependent areas.

Taken together, these actions mean that those areas which are more reliant on central Government grant are protected from the greatest reductions in grant in the local government finance settlement for 2011-12.

Furthermore, Ministers have removed many costly burdens on local government such as comprehensive area assessments, and have removed ring fencing around all revenue grants except simplified schools grants and a new public health grant to provide the maximum local flexibility to allocate funding efficiently. These freedoms are accompanied by £300 million of capitalisation in 2011-12 to help early restructuring. The main application deadline was 12 May. It is intended to issue capitalisation directions in July, nearly six months earlier than in previous years, to provide early clarity to authorities.

Changes in the final settlement

The local government finance settlement for 2011-12 was approved by the House of Commons on 9 February 2011. Following consultation Ministers made a number of changes. Key amendments arising out of the consultation were:

£10 million was added to district formula grant to compensate for concessionary fares changes;

Transition grant increased so that no council faced a reduction in their spending power of more than 8.8% (from 8.9% before consultation), based on spending power figures as set out at the provisional settlement;

Spending power calculations were revised to exclude parish precepts, and to reflect local allocations of Local Economic Growth Initiative, Housing Market Renewal and Eco-Towns grants where one local authority acts as an accountable body for several local authorities;

A £1.9 million reduction was made to the quantum of the adjustment for the South Downs National Park;

The base position for Bury and other Greater Manchester authorities changed to reflect that Bury are no longer lead authority for staff transferred from the Learning and Skills Council, and;

The spending review announced that £200 million of capitalisation would be available in 2011-12. Following representations from authorities, the Government decided to increase the amount to £300 million, which was announced on 3 March.

Common themes raised by local authorities

Councils believe the current system is far too complex and lacks transparency, making it very hard for local communities to understand.

Councils frequently called for changes to be made to advantage their council at the expense of others. For example, Barnsley metropolitan borough council argued against the large proportion of floor damping that goes to local authorities in London and the south-east. By contrast, Basingstoke and Deane borough council argued against authorities above the floor having to fund floor damping, calling for a reduction of the scaling factor used for district councils and opposed the increase in weighting for relative needs.

The Association of North East Councils argued that the north-east received a worse deal than the south-east, and that deprivation had risen more in the north-east than London since 2007.

Brighton and Hove city council disagreed with the area cost adjustment for Cumbria, Wolverhampton, Wigan, Liverpool and Oldham, but not to its area. London councils contended that London has faced particularly tough settlements over the last five years, and that the area cost adjustment system penalised councils in high-wage labour markets like London. Southampton city council objected to being scaled back in the damping mechanism in order to fund inner-London boroughs. Ashford borough council asserted that district councils and south-east councils were being treated less favourably than other parts of the country.

Councils frequently maintained that they were so deprived that additional funding and weighting should be given to them, or that the measures of deprivation did not properly reflect their real level of deprivation.

The representations, taken together, illustrate the need for reform of the local government finance system. At present, the massively complex and opaque system encourages local authorities to argue for more money at the expense of other local authorities, and to champion their particular circumstances and downplay their locality rather than seize the opportunities for growth and success.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

A New Framework for Local Television

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): Today, I am publishing a new framework setting out proposals to help create a new generation of local TV services across the UK.

The framework outlines the steps the Government intend to take by using available secondary order-making powers and the funding of up to £40 million secured through the licence fee settlement with the BBC to support local TV services.

The proposals include three statutory instruments: the first, to reserve sufficient local, low-cost spectrum for carrying the local TV services; the second, to create a proportionate and targeted licensing regime for the spectrum and local TV service operators; and the third, to secure appropriate prominence for the licensed local services in television electronic programme guides.

Local TV will provide news and other content for local audiences, helping to holdlocal institutions to account and providing proper local perspectives. This framework offers the right incentives to the market to develop innovative business models; provides greater certainty and reduced risk for investors; and encourages new market opportunities and growth.

This framework takes into account a range of views provided to the Government through an earlier consultation and has involved a broad assessment of the technical, commercial and regulatory requirements involved. Information on spectrum coverage and possible locations will be made available in due course.

It is expected the first local television licences will be awarded by Ofcom from summer 2012. I have placed copies of the framework and associated impact assessment in the Libraries of both Houses.

Royal Parks Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): I am publishing today a statement regarding the future governance of the eight royal parks and the Royal Parks Agency

In my ministerial written statement to both Houses on 18 January 2011, I outlined how the Government were committed to transferring more responsibility for the management of the eight royal parks to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and to ensuring that Londoners had a voice in how the parks are managed.

I have now considered a range of options for how best to achieve our objective of greater accountability to the GLA and to park users and local residents. I do not believe that primary legislation is necessary to transfer responsibility for the day-to-day management of the parks. Instead, I believe that it is possible to achieve an outcome that allows the mayor and local interests to have a significant say in how the royal parks are managed which is also cost-effective.

Our intention is that Crown ownership of the royal parks will be maintained. The royal parks will remain an Executive agency of DCMS and the responsibility of the Secretary of State but we will create a new royal parks board to provide a voice for the Mayor and for London in how the parks are managed. The chair and board will be appointed by the mayor, with board members including representatives of the London boroughs and the royal household. At the same time, we will task the board to develop and recommend new consultation processes that will give local communities and users of the parks a role in decision-making. The details of these new governance arrangements will be announced in due course. Board arrangements will be kept under review by the Secretary of State.

DEFENCE

Defence Transformation

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The strategic defence and security review (SDSR), announced last October, marked the start of the process of transforming defence to meet the challenges of the future. It set out a path to a coherent and affordable defence capability in 2020 and beyond; and some of the key building blocks—such as the return of the Army from Germany, and a Royal Air Force (RAF) structured around fewer, more capable fast jets.

This statement provides detail of our intent on future armed forces basing and rationalisation of the defence estate.

This has been a complex piece of work. It addressed the decision to accelerate the return of the 20,000 personnel still in Germany, plus their dependants, to the UK and the formation of the Army into five multi-role brigades. It took into account the footprint of the armed forces around the UK and the planned changes to the RAF force structure. A number of other initiatives, such as the future location for defence technical training and the restructuring of the Army's non-deployable regional footprint, have also had significant estate implications. Finally, it has also taken account of the need to realise receipts from high-value sites defence no longer required to help address the black hole in the defence budget left by the previous Government.

Basing affects a wide range of interested parties across defence. Experts from across the Department and all three armed services were consequently involved in the study. Throughout the process MOD has been very clear and consistent about the criteria used—above all what is best for the defence and security of the UK and what makes overall military sense. We looked at what was best for those serving in our armed forces, and their families. We also recognised that defence decisions have broader regional, economic, and social consequences. Finally, the resulting plan must of course be affordable and offer value-for-money for the taxpayer.

The starting point for the review of basing has been the military requirement. Units which are part of larger formations have to be close enough together geographically to be able to work and train effectively and to create the formation coherence necessary for successful combat operations. To do so, they need access to suitable training areas of the right size, and with the right terrain, so they can prepare for deployment.

We have considered the impact of the proposed changes on service personnel and their families. Under the armed forces' new employment model, the Army aim to base personnel close to a number of units so they can change post without their family needing to move home, and close enough to an urban centre for their families to have access to jobs and education and to the housing market. This will allow greater stability, which is important for the welfare of our armed forces and their families, and to continuing the Government's commitment to rebuilding the armed forces' covenant.

The defence of the United Kingdom, and wider military tasks, including the capacity to support the civil authorities in times of crisis, requires a strong military presence across the entire country. We have also considered the impact of changes on local communities. Finally, we have taken into account the need to make the maximum use of existing defence estate and to dispose of that which is not required.

Much detailed planning remains to be done, both to identify the most effective draw-down plan for the forces currently in Germany and to determine which units are the best match for which sites. We will also need to take into account the potential changes in the balance between the regular and reserve forces I have also announced today. And there will be a need for the appropriate level of engagement with local authorities, including the preparation of sustainability assessments and the other work needed to meet our obligations. This means that some uncertainties remain, particularly about the time scales in which the necessary moves will take place. But our strategic objective and the key building blocks of our plan are clear. I will set these out, together with indicative time scales we are currently assuming for planning purposes.

There is already a concentration of the Army in the south-west of England, around Salisbury and around Catterick in Yorkshire. These will make up three of the five multi-role brigades (MRBs).

One of the two remaining MRBs to be formed from the units returning from Germany will be based in Scotland. The centre of gravity of the brigade will be in the central Lowlands. The key sites that are anticipated to be used are Kirknewton, which we propose to develop into a major Army base, and Glencorse. Other MRB units will be moved into Caledonia and, eventually, Arbroath, with the long-term plan being to bring the bulk of the Royal Marines together in the south-west of England. A site will also be used at Albemarle Barracks, Northumberland. We will aim to move the first unit into Kirknewton in 2016-17, with units probably moving into Glencourse and Caledonia a year earlier. We will plan to move the Royal Marines out of Arbroath around 2015-16, with a unit from Germany moving in shortly thereafter.

RAF Marham will remain as a base for Tornado GR4 and we have decided that we will build up the Typhoon force at Lossiemouth, retaining that station for the long-term as a RAF base, providing the location for the northern quick reaction alert missions. We will start preparing the infrastructure at Lossiemouth to receive the Typhoon force straight away, and would aim to start to redeploy aircraft there in 2013. We will continue to redeploy aircraft over the following years as space becomes available.

Although Leuchars will cease to be an RAF base it will remain in military use and will be used to base two major Army units and a formation headquarters. Our aim will be to move the headquarters to Leuchars before 2015, with the major units thereafter in the period 2015-17. This will ensure that as space becomes available at Leuchars, the Army will begin to take advantage of it.

We are also planning to place Army units in Kinloss in around 2014-15, subject to further detailed planning.

The MRB centred in Scotland will require a new training area and the MOD is grateful for the positive engagement being taken forward with the Scottish Government to achieve this. We will continue to engage with the Scottish Government to develop firm plans, including the confirmation of a specific site. Overall, this is good news for Scotland with overall force levels increasing.

The other MRB will be based in the east of England centred on the former RAF base at Cottesmore (in Rutland). The RAF will vacate Cottesmore in 2013, and we anticipate the first unit coming back from Germany should arrive the following year. We also intend to use other former RAF bases and existing Army bases including north Luffenham, in Rutland, where we aim to bring the first unit back in about 2015-16, Bassingbourn, in Cambridgeshire, with the first unit arriving back around 2016-17, and Woodbridge, in Suffolk, where the first unit is unlikely to arrive back before 2017-18.

Other sites that are anticipated to be used to accommodate Army units returning from Germany are Aldegrove in Northern Ireland, with the aim of a unit arriving in 2015, and Pirbright where we are planning for units from Germany to arrive in 2013.

Defence must also continue to look to make the most efficient use of the defence estate and the process will continue to identify and dispose of sites that are no longer needed. Those sites which can be sold, especially high-value sites, will deliver much needed receipts to the defence budget. We also need to make sure we are making maximum use of those sites which remain. The decision has therefore been taken to vacate and dispose of Craigiehall, Redford and Dreghom Barracks in Edinburgh. We will aim to achieve these disposals by 2014-15 at the latest. We also plan in the same timescale to vacate and dispose of Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire which, subject to the necessary planning consents, will support the Government's broader aim of increasing the supply of new housing. The units currently based at these sites will, as appropriate, be accommodated at other locations.

This conclusion also paves the way for a number of other estate-related initiatives to proceed.

In accordance with SDSR direction it is proposed that the Army's four regional divisional headquarters will be replaced by a single UK support command. The new formation, commanded by a major general, will be known as headquarters support command and it will be based in Aldershot. Its creation will lead to the disbandment of Headquarters 2nd Division in Edinburgh, Headquarters 4th Division at Aldershot and Headquarters

5th Division at Shrewsbury in 2012. Savings at the regional brigade level will be made through structural changes to each of the ten regional brigade headquarters and to HQ London district, together with their supporting structures rather than closing individual brigade headquarters.

Another of the decisions from the SDSR was to reduce the Army by one deployable brigade as part of the measure to restructure towards five MRBs, replacing the current mix of armoured, mechanised and light brigades. Having considered the various options, we have concluded that 19 Light Brigade and its constituent units, currently based in Northern Ireland, is the most logical option from a military judgment for disbandment as it is not well suited to become an MRB, nor do the existing basing and training facilities in Northern Ireland cater for heavier equipments and all-arms training. Detailed planning and trade unions consultation will now commence on the basis of our intent to complete the disbandment by 2013. While this will result in a reduction in the current troop levels in Northern Ireland, with some units being amalgamated within different brigades and others disbanded, we continue to consider options for future basing in Northern Ireland consistent with our wider re-basing plans. We remain committed to maintaining a permanent military garrison in Northern Ireland. As part of the implementation planning we will now undertake, we will examine what alternative military uses can be made of the sites which are no longer required for 19 Light Brigade.

Routine business on basing and further work on disposals will continue. Stafford will become home to two additional Signals Regiments in the period 2015-18. This will be done in close consultation with the German authorities, which will continue as the Army now draws up its plans for how to draw down from Germany in a sensible and coherent way.

RAF Lyneham is the preferred location for future defence technical training. This confirms that the Department will withdraw from Arborfield in Berkshire and Bordon in Hampshire, releasing the sites for sale by 2014-15 at the latest. This announcement in no way threatens the existing defence presence at St Athan. There are no plans to move or reduce the 300 technical training posts as part of the rationalisation to Lyneham. Indeed plans to relocate additional defence units to St Athan are being developed, and if those plans come to fruition, they will bring a major uplift in employment at that base. We intend to make an announcement before the end of the year.

As noted above, 160 brigade will also continue to be in Wales at Brecon.

Finally, even with the decisions to use the former RAF bases to the greatest extent possible, the demand for civilian workforce at RAF Kinloss, Cottesmore and Lyneham will be reduced. This, combined with the need to match skills to jobs, means that around 545 posts in total will be lost. Consultation has been under way with trade unions on the drawdown of RAF Kinloss, Lyneham, Cottesmore and much work has been done to help individuals to assess their future options. Staff have been encouraged to apply for MOD voluntary early release (VERS), and many have taken up that opportunity. However, to manage the drawdown of the stations efficiently, it is necessary to introduce a redundancy scheme, which will commence with voluntary redundancy terms. Consultation with trade unions on the redundancy scheme will take place very shortly.

The detailed planning work, including the investment required to adapt sites, will now get under way based on this strategic direction. The Ministry of Defence will now begin the process of detailed planning and the appropriate and necessary engagement with the devolved Administrations and local authorities concerned around the country.

Further work will be done to draw up individual project plans and determine the timing and sequencing of the Army moves, and this may affect some of the indicative time scales set out here. Once completed, this will deliver the military requirement for basing and estate, which will facilitate our work to maximise the effectiveness of our armed forces under the adaptable posture set out in the SDSR. It will rebalance the defence footprint across the UK, offer stability to our armed forces, and deliver better value for money for the taxpayer.

Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I am today publishing the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s annual report and accounts 2010-11. It provides a comprehensive overview of the Department's financial performance for the year, together with data on some specific areas of non-financial performance including factual information on the Department's progress against structural reform and business plan priorities. Copies will be available from the Vote Office and online from the MOD website at the following address: www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Researchers/.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The previous Government legislated for the co-ordinated online record of electors (CORE) in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. CORE was intended to provide a single source of electoral registration information for authorised users, principally to provide political parties with a system that would help them meet their donation reporting obligations. The CORE service was to be managed by a new public body, a corporation sole, established for the purposes of being the "CORE keeper".

The cost of building the CORE system was estimated to be £11.4 million and £2.7 million per annum to run thereafter.

The Government have decided not to pursue the project. We do not believe that establishing this system is proportionate, cost-effective or consistent with the Government's policy on databases and reducing the number of non-departmental public bodies. We will continue to consider more cost-effective ways to improve the processes and procedures for political parties to report donations.

EDUCATION

Early Intervention

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): The Government welcome the recent publication of the second and final report of the review of the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) into early intervention. The Government recognise the case for supporting prevention and early intervention and are already taking action. Today, jointly with the Under-Secretary of State for Health, I am launching "Supporting Families in the Foundation Years" which sets out the importance of intervening early and the role that different services, working together, should play to ensure that children and families receive early help where needed. It reflects the review's vision that every child should be helped to develop the necessary social and emotional skills to form positive relationships, have self-confidence, perform to the best of their abilities at school and in later life, being aware of the needs of both themselves and others. A society without those skills will ultimately fail—and the cost is already there to see in terms of children falling behind at school, at greater risk of developing physical or mental health problems, needing to go into care and, in the worst cases, getting into crime. Failure to get this right results in substantial costs both to society and children's life chances, with poorer health, reduced employment prospects and relationship instability in later life, and the risk that these problems cascade on to the next generation. As the Government have already set out in their child poverty and social mobility strategies, we must take action now to address these issues.

The vision of the hon. Member for Nottingham North is wide-ranging in scope. He challenges central Government to respond to this vision, to ensure that early intervention principles are embedded across Government, but particularly to focus on the needs of those who can benefit most—our children and young people. He also argues that every local area should put in place effective strategies to work not only with the most challenging families, but also to take preventive action at every stage of a child's development through community budgets.

Today's launch of "Supporting Families in the Foundation Years" recognises the input of the hon. Member for Nottingham North to the early intervention agenda. He has directly contributed to Government's thinking on this statement which has taken into account many of his recommendations, for example on adopting the term "foundation years" from pregnancy to five, his emphasis on the importance of parenting, and focusing on what works in evidence-based interventions such as the family nurse partnership. He has identified approaches to innovative finance and payment by results through data collection, along with proposals to encourage people at every level to focus on intervening early, particularly in the foundation years. Much of his vision links to Eileen Munro's recommendations on offering early help.

The hon. Gentleman has conducted an analysis of evidence-based programmes in his two reports, and argues powerfully that in a tight fiscal climate it makes sense to use programmes which are most effective, and are proven to deliver results. We agree that evidence-based programmes and practice are important and, like the hon. Gentleman, recognise that any list of the most effective programmes will change over time so should be kept under review. Naturally it is for local areas to decide which programmes suit the needs of their community. Through "Supporting Families in the Foundation Years" we are asking the sector for their views on how best to encourage the sector to make full use of those programmes, as part of the commitment to the Government's new relationship with the increasingly autonomous and self-confident sector.

On his recommendations on wider system reform, and the creation of early intervention places, the "Supporting Families in the Foundation Stage" document sets out an ambition that this work should link closely with community budgets focused on families with multiple problems, to encourage local authorities to work not only with the most challenging families, but also to support families earlier to reduce the numbers of families reaching crisis point.

In his second report, the hon. Member for Nottingham North has investigated a number of innovative approaches to contracting for outcomes and funding to support the delivery of this vision. This is challenging and new territory, but his proposals provide a very useful input to the Government's consultations on how they can best deploy and unlock resources to improve the effectiveness of public services. We welcome his call for an independent foundation to champion early intervention and challenge public service providers and Government. Such a foundation has an important role to play. We welcome this proposal as a way of engaging the key partners in this agenda.

The Government view both reports of the hon. Member for Nottingham North as a very positive step forward in what we know about early intervention and its funding. We are very grateful to the hon. Gentleman and his review team for their considerable efforts in clarifying the challenge, and the opportunities, arising from an early intervention approach.

Families in the Foundation Years

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): Today the Under-Secretary of State for Health, the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) and I are publishing a policy statement "Families in the Foundation Years", which sets out the Government's policy and the services that we think should be offered to all parents and families across England from pregnancy until a child reaches the age of five.

Today we are also launching a document—"Supporting Families in the Foundation Years"—for commissioners, local leaders and professionals who work with families in the foundation years, setting out our vision for the system that will implement these policies. It has been developed with advice from a wide range of professionals with extensive knowledge and experience of the foundation years.

On 6 July I launched a consultation on revised standards for learning, development and care of children from birth to five—a simpler, strengthened early years foundation stage (EYFS). We also made available a discussion document on the new core purpose of Sure Start children's centres focusing on the outcomes they support for children and families, particularly the most vulnerable.

Taken together these publications constitute our response to those recommendations from the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen), the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field), and Dame Clare Tickell that deal partly or wholly with the foundation years. I have also laid a written ministerial statement today in response to the hon. Member for Nottingham North's second and final report "Early Intervention: Small Investment, Massive Savings" which I welcome and which will inform wider work on innovative finance.

Today's publications emphasise the vital role that skilled and knowledgeable professionals and strong leadership play across the foundation years. This requires a framework of high-standard qualifications that meet the needs of employers, and equip early education professionals to support young children's development. I am pleased to announce I have asked Professor Cathy Nutbrown to lead an independent review of foundation years qualifications. The review will consider the quality and breadth of qualifications available to the early education work force, and how best to strengthen qualifications and career pathways in the foundation years, offering advice to me during next year.

I am also announcing that nine local authorities will be the first to trial payment by results in children's centres. The areas are Southampton, Oxfordshire, Oldham, Gloucestershire, Devon, Croydon, Blackpool, Barnsley, and Barking and Dagenham. They will test how to reward and incentivise reaching the most vulnerable families, improving family health and well-being and raising attainment of children at age five.

Raising the status of the foundation years

This Government want to build on recent improvements in the quality of services for young children to create an environment in which local communities, business and public services work together to help families and parents to be the best they can be, particularly during the important first years of their children's lives.

Research clearly demonstrates the impact of the first years of a child's life on later life chances. Maternal health and health in early childhood are important for later well-being. Children who do well at age five are six times more likely to achieve at or above expected levels in the first years of primary school and the effects of good early education are still visible at age 11, and on into later life. Research also shows that children do best when parenting is warm, responsive and authoritative.

The strength of this evidence has been recognised in the recent major reports from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on poverty and life chances, by the hon. Member for Nottingham North on early intervention and by Dame Clare Tickell on the early years foundation stage (EYFS). Both the hon. Member for Nottingham North and the right hon. Member for Birkenhead called for Government to adopt the term "Foundation Years" to signal the importance of the first phase of life in underpinning later achievement and well-being. Recognising the need to raise the status of this time of life, we have adopted this name in the statement we are making today.

Making this the most family-friendly country in Europe

Families are the cornerstone of our society, and this Government have committed to making this country the most family-friendly in Europe. We have already demonstrated our commitment to supporting families during the foundation years:

> The Government have already increased to 15 hours a week the free entitlement to early education for all three and four-year-olds, and the paving legislation required to extend this entitlement to disadvantaged two-year-olds is currently before Parliament;
>
> By 2015, we aim to increase the health visitor workforce by 4,200 (an increase of over 50%). Health visiting services can then deliver a full service to children, families and the community working closely with Sure Start children's centres and other organisations;
>
> Over the same period we will double (to 13,000) the number of vulnerable young families who will benefit from the family nurse partnership;
>
> Investment in relationship support over the spending review period will further the positive impact relationship stability has on parenting;
>
> The Government are consulting on a new flexible system of shared parental leave which will give mothers and fathers more choice about how they share their caring responsibilities;
>
> The Government have announced that it wants to retain a network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all families but focused on those in greatest need;
>
> The Government are committed to strengthening accountability arrangements for children's centres, including through introducing payment by results, so that success is recognised and rewarded. Nine local authorities, announced today, will become the first to trial payment by results in children's centres—with up to 21 further trials to be announced early in the autumn. The experience of the trial areas will help the Government and local authorities develop a final set of measures so payment by results can be rolled out nationally from 2013-14.

Supporting children, families, and professionals

Taken as a whole, this package takes forward our principles of public sector reform by promoting greater involvement of parents in services; increasing flexibility in the free entitlement; strengthening quality across foundation years services; further opening up children's centres to a wider range of providers; and reforming funding and strengthening accountability.

It emphasises the importance of intervening early and outlines the role that different services, working together, should play to ensure that children and families receive early help if this is needed, in line with recommendations from the hon. Member for Nottingham North and Professor Eileen Munro. The Government response to Professor Munro's report was published on 13 July, and set out our commitment to early help.

As I confirmed in my statement on 6 July, we are introducing a new requirement on early years providers via the reformed EYFS to provide a summary report to parents on their child's progress in the prime areas of learning and development between the ages of two and three. The report will help parents understand how they can encourage and support their child's learning and social and emotional development at home and guide the provision of any additional support the child might need to help them catch up by age five. Parents will be encouraged to share that report with their health visitor to inform the health and development review at the age of two to two-and-a-half, which is part of the healthy child programme.

For the longer-term we are exploring the feasibility of a single integrated review at around age two, in which parents will be able to review their child's progress with health visitors and early years providers jointly who will be able to offer help to address any issues early on. We will work with expert early years and health professionals, practitioners and sector representatives, and parents, to develop new models for this integrated review. We will explore, with the help of our health visitor early implementer sites, moving to a universally available single integrated review to support children and families from 2015 when the planned increase in health visitor numbers will make this possible.

We will place copies of "Supporting Families in the Foundation Years" in the House Library.

Lord Bew's Independent Review of Key Stage 2 (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): We are very grateful to Lord Bew and his panel of head teachers and other experts for their thoughtful, detailed and comprehensive work on their independent review of testing, assessment and accountability at key stage 2.

We believe the recommendations in Lord Bew's final report will lead to a fairer and more effective system. We agree to the principles that underpin the final report and accept all of the recommendations in full.

We have always been clear that external accountability is vital to raising standards and narrowing attainment gaps, and we are pleased that Lord Bew's report recognises this. While preserving strong accountability, Lord Bew's recommendations include a number of important changes to the current system. We will encourage all agencies concerned with assessment and accountability of schools, including Ofsted, to take full account of the principles of the report.

We will publish a wider range of data, including new progress measures and three-year rolling averages, which will give a more rounded picture of school performance while allowing parents easier access to the information they need about their child. This aligns with our commitment to transparency and plans to make as much information as possible available to the public.

We also agree the recommendation to extend the time frame in which pupils who are absent on the day of a test can sit it, and will trial an extension to a week. This will apply to all pupils at the end of key stage 2 in 2012. An evaluation at the end of the test cycle will determine whether the extension will become permanent.

We welcome the fact that Lord Bew has considered the testing and assessment arrangements in each subject from the point of view of what is educationally most appropriate. We acknowledge the problems with the current writing test and agree that summative teacher assessment is the most appropriate way to assess writing composition. External moderation of that assessment will be important to ensure it is recognised as reliable and robust. We will develop and trial moderation arrangements next year and introduce them on a statutory basis from 2013. Teacher assessment judgments of writing composition will form the greater part of any overall writing judgment once the new arrangements are in place from 2013 onwards.

The Standards and Testing Agency will work with the profession on the design, implementation and administration of a test of essential skills which children need to master to become fluent, confident writers, such as spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary, and consider the potential to include an assessment of handwriting in the test. We will trial the test in 2012 and intend to introduce it in 2013.

In 2012 interim arrangements for writing assessment will be required. Those arrangements should be in line with the principles in Lord Bew's report and ensure that results are as reliable and robust as possible. Teacher assessment judgments of writing composition will make a significant contribution to the overall writing results. We also believe some external testing will be required alongside teacher assessment. We will discuss the detailed arrangements for 2012 with the profession and confirm them to schools at the start of the new school year.

We will retain externally-marked tests in reading and mathematics, and will refine them over time to ensure they are accessible to all groups of pupils. We will also retain the current system of sample testing in science.

We agree that more emphasis should be placed on teachers' own assessments of their pupils. We accept Lord Bew's recommendation that teacher assessment should continue to be reported alongside test data, and that schools should be required to submit teacher assessment judgments before pupils sit the tests.

We recognise that Lord Bew's recommendations represent substantial reform to the current key stage 2 testing, assessment and accountability system. We want to act as quickly as possible to take the recommendations forward. However, change of this scale needs to be implemented carefully to ensure the positive impact is realised for all involved. We will implement the recommendations as quickly as is practicable.

We are today placing my Department's full response to Lord Bew's final report in the House Library.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Resource Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): I have today published and laid before Parliament the annual reports and accounts for the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the National College for School Leadership.

These reports cover the activities of the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the National College for School Leadership in 2010-11 and include full sets of accounts for 2010-11. As a company limited by guarantee, the accounts for the National College for School Leadership have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and International Financial Reporting Standards. The accounts for the Training and Development Agency for Schools have been prepared in accordance with the 2010-11 Financial Reporting Manual.

In reviewing the accounts I concluded that while the accounts had been prepared correctly, the disclosures about exit packages were inconsistent with the disclosures in the departmental resource accounts and with other non-departmental public bodies for which the Department has responsibility. The accounting officers have, therefore, agreed to publish additional information which ensures that the level of disclosure is consistent with that shown in the departmental resource accounts for 2010-11.

The additional disclosure for the National College for School Leadership is:

Exit package cost band	*Compulsory redundancies 2010-11*	*Number of other departures agreed 2010-11*	*Compulsory redundancies 2009-10*	*Number of other departures agreed 2009-10*
<£10,000		8	11	
£10,000 to £25,000		9		
£25,001 to £50,000	1	4		1
£50,001 to £100,000				
£100,001 to £150,000				
£150,001 to £200,000				
£200,001 to £250,000				
£250,001 to £300,000				
£300,001 to £350,000		1		
£350,001 to £400,000				
£400,001 to £450,000				
£450,001 to £500,000				
£500,001 to £550,000				
Total Cost (£000)	£38,000	£642,000	£23,000	£43,000

The additional disclosure for the Training and Development Agency for Schools is:

Exit package cost band	*Compulsory redundancies 2010-11*	*Number of other departures agreed 2010-11*	*Compulsory redundancies 2009-10*	*Number of other departures agreed 2009-10*
<£ 10,000			5	23
£10,000 to £25,000	1	1	2	32
£25,001 to £50,000		4		30
£50,001 to £100,000		3		22
£100,001 to £150,000		6		4
£150,001 to £200,000		1		1
£200,001 to £250,000		1		1
£250,001 to £300,000		1		
£300,001 to £350,000		1		
£350,001 to £400,000		1		
£400,001 to £450,000				
£450,001 to £500,000				
£500,001 to £550,000		1		
Total Costs	£0.019 million	£3.092 million	£0.061 million	£4.186 million

These reports have been placed in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office. They are also available online at the websites of the National College for School Leadership (www.nationalcollege.org.uk) and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (www.tda.gov.uk).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Export Control Policy (Review)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 16 March 2011 that the Government would commission a thorough review of the UK's policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods, in the light of events in the middle east and north Africa and concerns in Parliament and the public about UK policy.

This review has now been completed. It was conducted by Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in close consultation with their colleagues across Whitehall, and it examined our policy on arms exports. Its purpose was to determine whether improvements could be made to reduce further the risk of misuse of UK-origin controlled military goods and to increase confidence that goods exported from the United Kingdom would not be used for internal repression. It looked specifically at events in the middle east and north Africa region.

The review concluded that there was no evidence of any misuse of controlled military goods exported from the United Kingdom. There were some reports of the use of UK-origin crowd control vehicles in Libya, but these reports remain uncorroborated.

Consultations with our overseas posts revealed no evidence that any of the offensive naval, air or land-based military platforms used by Governments in north Africa or the middle east against their own populations during the Arab spring, were supplied from the United Kingdom.

However, the review also concluded that further work is needed on how we operate certain aspects of the controls. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has responsibility for our export licensing operations. The Secretary of State and I will consider how this should be done, and once that process is complete I will update the House on our proposals.

Spanish Site of Community Importance

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In February 2009 environmental experts in Gibraltar identified that the European Commission had adopted the proposal by the Spanish Government to designate under the Habitats Directive a Site of Community Importance (SCI). The SCI, named *Estrecho Oriental*, overlaps the co-ordinates of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and entirely overlaps an existing adopted UK SCI, Southern Waters of Gibraltar, which is managed by the Government of Gibraltar (subsequently designated by the Government of Gibraltar as a special area of conservation—SAC). The UK has sought to reverse the adoption of the Spanish site, first through diplomatic action with the European Commission and the Government of Spain and then through legal action. We continue to work closely with the Government of Gibraltar to resolve this issue.

The original legal case was launched by the UK in the European General Court (EGC) on 22 December 2009. This challenged the European Commission's listing of this site as a Spanish Site of Community Importance. The Government are clear that only the UK can submit sites covering BGTW. Spain cannot enforce the management or monitoring of the specific area in question. There is therefore a risk that, given its lack of access to this site, Spain will make decisions without accurate scientific information which could have detrimental environmental or economic impact on Gibraltar and BGTW.

On 24 May 2011 the EGC ruled the UK's case inadmissible on technical grounds, ruling that the UK should have challenged the Commission's original rather than subsequent confirmatory decision to list the site. The UK's rebuttal stated that due to the Commission's deficient processes, lack of transparency and consultation, it had been unable to do so within the normal time limit. We have also highlighted that when the UK put forward its Southern Waters of Gibraltar site it did so on the basis of consultation with Spain, which was insisted on by the Commission. The Commission did not insist that Spain consult the UK before the listing of *Estrecho Oriental*.

Following extensive consultation and on the basis of legal advice the UK will be appealing against the court's decision. The Government have a clear responsibility to uphold the UK's position over the waters around Gibraltar. I want to reassure the people of Gibraltar that we will defend their interests on this matter.

The Government of Gibraltar had also launched their own separate legal action, which the UK supported. This was also ruled inadmissible on technical grounds. The Government of Gibraltar are appealing against that decision.

I will keep the House informed of further significant developments in the case.

HEALTH

Care Quality Commission Registration

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I wish to inform the House that the Department is today publishing a consultation on proposed changes to the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009 and The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010. The proposals include changes that will improve the effectiveness of current regulatory arrangements for health and social care and reduce the burden on providers (including the providers of health care at the Olympic games).

The Government are committed to keeping regulatory systems under review and to ensuring that regulatory burdens are kept to a minimum, while ensuring that the systems are effective at protecting service users. In line with commitments given to the House, officials have carried out an initial review of the operation of the regulations governing the new registration system for health and adult social care providers operated by the Care Quality Commission. The first year of operating the system has highlighted a number of issues in the regulations that either do not function as initially intended, lack clarity or which impose an unjustified burden on providers. This consultation document sets out the issues identified, proposes how they might be addressed and seeks views on these. It also asks respondents to identify other issues that should be considered as part of a wider review to begin later this year. The proposals include changes to both the regulation of health care and adult social care services that, subject to consultation responses and the parliamentary process, could be made swiftly and that we plan to start to implement in 2012.

By keeping the regulations governing the registration system under constant review, we will ensure that legislative framework keeps pace with service developments, focuses regulatory requirements where they are most effective, and delivers a system that allows the Care Quality Commission to provide the assurance that services meet the safety and quality requirements that people who use services and their families expect.

"Consultation on proposed changes to regulations for Care Quality Commission registration" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Consultation on Value-Based Pricing (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am publishing today "A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicine—the Government's response".

The consultation document set out this Government's proposals for introducing a system of value-based pricing for medicines, as stated in the coalition agreement. The system will enable patients to access the medicines and treatments their doctor advises they need by establishing a closer link between the price of a new branded medicine and the value which it offers in terms of benefits to patients, reflecting unmet need, therapeutic innovation, and benefit to society.

We have committed to honouring the terms of the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme 2009 until its expiry, but there is a need to reform the way in which we pay for medicines from 2014 onwards. The current system of pricing medicines does not promote innovation or patient access in the way that we are looking for. As we have made clear through the establishment of the cancer drugs fund prior to 2014, we are enabling NHS clinicians to have better access to the medicines required for their patients.

A total of 188 consultation responses were submitted by a wide-range of organisations and individuals. The Government's response to the consultation provides a summary of the responses received. There was broad support for the concept of a value-based pricing system for new medicines, and for the objectives set out in the consultation document. Many responses welcomed the broader approach proposed for the assessment of new medicines' value, while also acknowledging the complexity involved in carrying out such assessments.

The Government's response confirms our intention to introduce value-based pricing in 2014. We want the arrangements that we put in place from 2014 to ensure that NHS patients have consistently good access to effective, clinically appropriate medicines, wherever they live. The current funding direction requiring NHS commissioners in England to fund drugs and treatments in line with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations is designed to achieve this, and it is one of our key objectives for value-based pricing.

The response highlights our intention, set out in the Government's response to the Future Forum report, to maintain the effect of the funding direction in the value-based pricing arrangements, to ensure that the NHS in England consistently funds medicines with a value-based price. The NHS will be required to fund drugs already recommended by NICE, as well as drug treatments subject to the value-based pricing regime. This means patients will continue to have the legal right to clinically appropriate, cost-effective drugs and treatments as set out in the NHS constitution and accompanying handbook.

The response confirms that, in relation to the scope of value-based pricing and the key elements of the value-based pricing assessment, we intend to pursue an approach in line with the proposals set out in the consultation document. The response also acknowledges that significant work remains to develop the value-based pricing system, in particular, as regards how to measure and assess the value of new medicines.

The response emphasises that we want our work to be informed by the best available evidence, and that we look forward to continued positive and productive engagement with the full range of interested stakeholders as our work progresses.

The consultation provided an important opportunity for different groups to contribute their views on our proposed approach, to inform key principles at the heart of value-based pricing and to signal their interest in engaging with further work to design and implement the new system.

We are grateful to all those who responded, and believe that the Government response to the consultation represents an important next step in the process of developing a new system that is stable and sustainable for both the NHS and industry, and delivers improved outcomes for patients through better access to effective medicines.

A copy of the Government response to the consultation has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Asthma

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am publishing today an "Outcomes Strategy for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Asthma".

The "Outcomes Strategy for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Asthma" identifies the overarching objectives that will help transform respiratory care in England. The outcomes strategy will help local commissioners to identify the key dimensions of a quality service, and to complement other related local and national initiatives, such as the clinical guidelines developed by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Public Health and NHS Outcomes Frameworks.

The strategy does not define how each aspect of care should be delivered. We think services need to be sensitively planned and appropriately delivered in response to the needs of each local community.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affects over 3 million people in England, with one in eight people over 35 having COPD that has not been properly identified or diagnosed. One person dies from COPD every 20 minutes in England, around 25,000 deaths a year. Too often people are diagnosed late in the course of the disease when the disease is severe and disabling. More than 5 million people receive treatment for asthma, with around 1,000 deaths a year, the majority of which are preventable.

As we have developed the strategy we have had extensive engagement with people with COPD and asthma and their carers. The strategy offers a real opportunity to make a difference to people with respiratory disease. With better co-ordinated and integrated services we can provide care that better meets the complex needs of people with these conditions.

The "Outcomes Strategy for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Asthma" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Winterbourne View and Castlebeck Facilities

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I promised to update the House about ongoing activity in relation to Winterbourne View private hospital.

The House will wish to be aware that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has today published its compliance report on Winterbourne View.

All patients have now left the premises and Winterbourne View is now closed. CQC undertook a responsive review of Winterbourne View following the abuse uncovered by Panorama. This review found serious concerns about the safety and quality of the service and CQC decided to take enforcement action to remove Winterbourne View from Castlebeck Care's registration, closing the service permanently. CQC regulatory action in relation to Winterbourne View concludes with the publication of the compliance report today.

CQC has now inspected all Castlebeck Care services in England (23 in total). Individual reports on the findings are being drafted. These reports will be published separately and followed up with appropriate regulatory or enforcement actions where necessary. The final summary report and individual reports will be available on the CQC website by the end of July.

CQC's own internal review is progressing with interviews of staff involved currently taking place. This information will provide the evidence for CQC's individual management review as part of the serious case review, led by south Gloucestershire council. The internal review is expected to be completed by late summer.

CQC will be carrying out a focused inspection programme which will review care provided for people with learning disabilities by hospitals. The review will be in two phases:

> phase one will consist of the inspection of 150 services that provide care for people with learning disabilities;
>
> phase two will use the learning from phase one to look at a sample of other registered services covering alternative models of provision for people with learning disabilities.

South Gloucestershire council has appointed Margaret Flynn, chair of the Lancashire safeguarding adults board, as independent chair of the serious case review and the rest of the panel are now in place.

The panel for the NHS serious untoward incident review has been appointed with members from NHS South West, NHS South Central and NHS West Midlands. The review will be led by Dr Gabriel Scally, South West Regional Director of Public Health.

Arrangements are being put in place for family, carers and self advocate representatives to be involved in the review as part of a reference panel.

The first phase of the review has started. This involves gathering information from all commissioners of care and treatment at Winterbourne View since 2006.

The Department of Health review will be led by Bruce Calderwood, Mental Health and Learning Disability Director. The review will be advised by a panel of experts including Professor Jim Mansell, Mark Goldring and Anne Williams. Its activities will be informed by the views of service user and carer representatives including the National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties, the Challenging Behaviour Foundation and the National Valuing Families Forum.

I have today placed in the Library a copy of the Winterbourne View compliance report. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. I will update the House further at the earliest opportunity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Use of Animals in Scientific Research

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The coalition agreement includes two commitments relating to the use of animals in scientific research: to end the testing of household products on animals; and to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research.

We believe these are ambitious but essential and achievable goals and that scientific advances present significant opportunities to replace animal use, to reduce the number of animals used, and, where animal use is unavoidable, to refine the procedures involved so as to minimise suffering. These long-standing aims are referred to as the 3Rs.

I am, therefore, pleased to inform the House that the Government have agreed arrangements to deliver both commitments.

The commitment to end the testing of household products on animals will be implemented using the licensing powers provided under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 by adding a condition to relevant project licences.

Before implementing the licence condition, I propose to consult with establishments holding relevant project licences to confirm the economic impact. I propose also to consult with establishments, relevant trade bodies and other stakeholders to agree a working definition of household product to accompany the condition.

The commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research will be delivered through a science-led programme led by the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), an organisation with a strong record in reducing animal use. The NC3Rs will closely involve Government Departments and agencies, the Home Office Inspectorate, the research community in both academia and industry, and others with relevant animal welfare interests.

The programme will focus on refinement as well as reduction and replacement and will co-ordinate action to minimise and reduce animal use and suffering while avoiding actions which might simply drive work abroad to countries where lower standards or less stringent testing guidelines apply.

Key areas of activity will include exploiting the latest developments in science and technology to reduce animal use; facilitating data sharing and collaboration across industry and academia; providing an evidence base for changes to international regulations which require animal use; a continuing focus on the 3Rs and the use of non-human primates; and ensuring that the 3Rs are at the heart of the training of the research leaders of the future.

Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (Independent Reviewer Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce that Mr David Anderson QC has completed his first annual report as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 and part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 in 2010, which will be laid before the House today.

I am grateful to David Anderson for his detailed report and will carefully consider his recommendations. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant Departments and agencies, I will place the Government's response to his recommendations in the Library in the autumn.

Crime Statistics: England and Wales

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): On 20 January 2011, the Home Secretary, in a written statement to the House, *Official Report*, column 49WS, made clear her concern that,

> "... our existing measures of crime are confusing and offer the public only a partial picture of the true level of offending. It is in the public interest that we have measures of crime that are clear, meaningful and in which the public can have confidence."

The Home Secretary announced a review to be undertaken by the national statistician, Ms Jil Matheson to address these points. On 6 June 2011, the national statistician published her review of crime statistics for England and Wales. I am today placing a copy of the Government's formal response to the national statistician's recommendations in the Library of the House along with a copy of the review report.

The Government accept all the recommendations of the national statistician. The Government believe that the transfer of publication of crime statistics to the independent Office for National Statistics will help build public trust in the key data that are published nationally about crime. The Government also look forward to the national statistician's independent advisory committee considering what further changes are necessary to the collection and presentation of crime statistics while reducing administrative burdens involved in collecting them.

Terrorism Act 2000 (Remedial) Order 2011

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On 16 March, I made a remedial order under the powers conferred on me by section 10(2) and paragraph 1(1) of schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998. That order replaced stop and search powers previously available to the police under sections 44 to 47 of the Terrorism Act 2000, with a significantly circumscribed set of powers, and provisions for an associated code of practice.

As required by paragraph 4(2) of schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act, I have placed a statement in the House Library to summarise the representations made during the 60 days since that order was made.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr Alan Duncan): An error has been identified in the written answer provided to the hon. Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 931W. The full answer given was as follows:

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether any funding from the public purse provided through his Department's Strategic Grant Agreement with the Trades Union Congress was used to fund the Trade Unions and International Health and Safety workbook. [62589]

Mr Duncan: Between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £416,387 to the Trades Union Congress under the Strategy Grant Agreement. A final report on activities funded by this grant was presented to DFID in June 2006. The report provides a comprehensive description of the activities conducted by the ten Unions funded by this grant. There is no reference in the report to funds being used for the Trade Unions and International Health and Safety workbook.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Duncan: Between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £416,387 to the Trades Union Congress under the Strategy Grant Agreement. A final report on activities funded by this grant was presented to DFID in June 2006 and is available on the TUC website. The report provides a comprehensive description of the activities conducted by the ten Unions funded by this grant. The report indicates that public funds were used for the production of the International Health and Safety workbook. However, information held shows only expenditure by broad category and does not give information on how much funding was used for each publication.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): Following an open recruitment process based on merit I have appointed Professor Michael O'Flaherty as the new Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. I am also appointing seven new Commissioners to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission—Grainia Long, Christine Collins, John Corey, Milton Kerr, Alan McBride, Marion Reynolds and Paul Yam. The new Chief Commissioner and seven new Commissioners will take up their posts in the early autumn.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is a key part of the architecture of human rights protections in Northern Ireland, and an important feature of the Belfast agreement. The Commission is now facing new challenges, not least in fulfilling its remit in a testing economic environment.

I am confident that these new appointments will ensure that the Commission will make a significant contribution to the advancement and protection of human rights in Northern Ireland in the coming months and years.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government Changes

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am announcing that the following Machinery of Government changes will take effect from today:

> The Government Property Unit will report directly to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and become part of the Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office;
>
> HM Land Registry, the Met Office and Ordnance Survey will move from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Communities and Local Government respectively to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Explanatory notes will be published in the normal way.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am pleased to announce that the Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts for 2010-11 will be laid before Parliament and published electronically on the DWP website later today at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/about%2Ddwp/customer%2Ddelivery/jobcentre%2Dplus/publications%2Djobcentre%2Dplus/.

The annual report section provides a summary of Jobcentre Plus's performance against the business priorities and targets in the 2010-11 published business plan along with structural reform priorities.

The accounts provide a summary of Jobcentre Plus's administrative and employment programme expenditure for 2010-11.

State Pension Reform (Summary of Responses to the Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): The consultation document, "A State Pension for the 21st Century" (Cm 8053) was published on April 4, 2011 and invited organisations and members of the public to respond to proposals for reforming the state pension system and managing future changes to state pension age.

The consultation ran from April 4 to June 24 2011 and during that period, I met with a number of organisations to explore our proposals for reform.

I will be publishing a summary of the comments received from the many different organisations and individuals who responded to our proposals by the end of July.

This document will not constitute a Government response to the consultation. The Government will consider in further detail all the responses received before taking any decisions about reforming the state pension system.

A copy of the summary of responses will be available on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/state-pension-21st-century.

Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

I am grateful to all those who responded to the consultation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 19 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I have today—together with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr Hoban)—published a summary of responses to the consumer credit and personal insolvency review, ("Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt"), launched jointly by BIS and HM Treasury. The summary also includes the Government's response on the insolvency aspects of the review. The call for evidence asked 31 questions covering a range of issues from advertising regulations to addressing unfair bank charges and dealing with debt; 216 responses were received.

On personal insolvency and debt advice, we propose to take action that will assist consumers in distress when things go wrong.

We have already committed to continue funding the face-to-face debt advice project for this year. In order to place debt advice in the future on to a more sustainable footing, we are pleased to announce that the Money Advice Service has agreed to take on responsibility for the co-ordination of debt advice services. The Money Advice Service will carry out a detailed review of the current debt advice landscape to identify the best way that these services can be delivered. The Money Advice Service will develop a model that ensures that debt advice is delivered in the most effective and efficient way.

Later in the year we will consult on increasing the petition debt levels for creditors. The level (currently £750) has not been increased since the Insolvency Act 1986 came into force and we believe that to be able to threaten someone with bankruptcy for such a small amount is disproportionate.

Financial rehabilitation following bankruptcy can be an unduly lengthy process, and a number of stakeholders commented on the difficulties a bankrupt can experience in operating even a basic bank account facility. The Government will be consulting in due course on amendments to address a perceived risk from banks that a trustee in bankruptcy may pursue the bank for property acquired by a debtor during the course of the bankruptcy.

Following comments about the potentially confusing number of possible debt solutions available to someone experiencing financial problems, we intend to consult on whether the provisions on county court administration orders should be repealed, as the numbers entering this process are rapidly declining, with just over 5,000 currently in existence.

We also recognise concerns about the provision of debt management services and note that there is potential for the regulatory landscape significantly to change. In the meantime, we will work alongside the OFT with the key players in the debt management industry to drive up standards and drive out unscrupulous behaviour.

On the consumer credit section of the review, it was clear that there was much concern about interest rates applying to the high-cost credit market with a number of respondents calling on the Government to introduce a cap on the total cost of credit that can be charged. Intervention in this market carries a risk that we might reduce access to credit. Given the concerns raised and the lack of hard evidence on what impact a total cost of credit cap might have on both the lenders and consumers, we will commission research to see if a cap on the total cost of credit would avoid adverse consumer outcomes.

We will report back later in the year to announce the Government position on the consumer credit aspects of the review while we continue to consider the evidence.

We are placing copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 12 July 2011. The following items were discussed:

Bank stress tests

The Council held an exchange of views on the European Banking Authority (EBA) stress tests. It adopted a statement and agreed a communication strategy on backstop measures to address potential vulnerabilities in member states' banking systems. I emphasised the importance of credible backstops, and of implementing Basel III in full. On 15 July, the EBA published results in aggregate format, while national supervisory authorities published results on individual banking institutions. At the time of publication, Ministers planned to issue statements, based on a common template, on remedial and backstop measures.

Stability and Growth Pact

a. Closure of Finland's excessive deficit procedure

> The Council adopted a decision closing the excessive deficit procedure for Finland, given that its deficit for 2010 remained below 3% of GDP.

b. Implications of the economic situation for fiscal surveillance

> The Council adopted conclusions which reinforced recommendations made in relation to the European semester and excessive deficit procedure. The Government welcome the conclusions, and their emphasis on ensuring that all member states fully implement budgetary strategies for timely meeting of fiscal targets. The Council will re-examine the situation after the summer, on the basis of an updated assessment prepared by the Commission.

Presentation of the Polish presidency work programme

The Council took note of the Polish presidency's ECOFIN work programme for the second half of 2011.

Follow up to the G20 Deputies meeting in Paris on 8-9 July 2011

Finance Ministers took note of the meeting of G20 Deputies. It agreed that Ministers would prepare, at the informal ECOFIN in September, terms of reference for the meeting in Washington on 23 September of G20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors.

Follow-up to the June European Council on 24 June 2011

The presidency summarised discussion on economic policy issues at the European Council. On the economic governance legislative package, the presidency would continue to liaise with the European Parliament and come back to the Council for further discussion after the summer. With reference to the euro-plus pact, the European Council would consider progress on the commitments made by signatories in December. The UK is not a member of the euro-plus pact.

Savings Taxation Directive

The Commission gave a presentation on its recommendation for a Council decision authorising it to negotiate changes with Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Andorra and Switzerland on the taxation of savings income. The Council agreed that the mandate should be further examined at working group level, and progress reported back to ECOFIN as soon as possible. The UK is keen to progress this dossier, and welcomes further commitments at Council.

11th Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) ministerial meeting

Ministers held a joint lunch meeting with their counterparts from the EU's Mediterranean partner countries to discussion implementation of FEMIP.

Private Finance Initiative Contracts

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): This Government have previously voiced their concerns about the value for money in private finance initiative (PFI) contracts. Today, as part of ongoing plans to reform PFI, Government are announcing their plan to deliver £1.5 billion savings from the existing stock of PFI projects. These savings will be retained by the contracting authorities and put towards front-line public services.

The Government are committed to ensuring taxpayers get value for money from PFI contracts. And we have already taken a series of steps to improve the cost effectiveness and transparency of PFI contracts.

At the spending review 2010 the Government abolished PFI credits to create a level playing field for all forms of public procurement.

In January this year the Government issued draft guidance to support the public sector in making savings from operational PFI projects. Since then Cabinet Office and Treasury have tested the guidance on a pilot project at the Queen's hospital in Romford, Essex and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has conducted savings pilots on its PFI projects. And today, on the Treasury website, the Government publish the updated savings guidance that reflects the lessons learned from these pilots.

In April this year the Government introduced new guidance to Departments to strengthen the approvals process of all projects. All major projects outside of a Department's delegated authority now need to go through three approval points.

And earlier this month the Government published for the first time an unaudited summary of the whole Government accounts (WGA), a new level of financial transparency which revealed the scale of PFI project liabilities. The Treasury is also engaging with the National Audit Office on a new study of the balance of risk and return of private investor equity in PFI projects, and to consider how financial transparency in this area could be improved.

In making this announcement today. Government recognise the role played by the strong parliamentary campaign to reduce PFI costs and secure better value for money for the taxpayer.

PFI saving pilots

Annual savings of around 5% have been confirmed for each of the Romford PFI savings pilot and two MOD pilots. Savings have been identified in three main areas: effective contract management, making better use of PFI assets, and ensuring the public sector only pays for what it needs.

The level of savings achievable at other PFI projects will vary, reflecting the bespoke, complex nature of assets and services delivered under these long-term contracts. But the pilots have shown that valuable efficiency savings can be achieved when private sector suppliers work together with the public sector to reduce PFI costs.

Applying the lessons of the pilot projects across the PFI portfolio

The Government want to apply the lessons from these pilots to PFI projects across the public sector.

The Cabinet Office, supported by Treasury and by local partnerships, will now lead a central programme that brings together ongoing major Government supplier renegotiations with project level savings initiatives being delivered by local contract management teams across the country, for services including defence, hospitals, schools, street lighting and waste. All operational savings that are made will remain with the institutions concerned, to be reinvested in the areas of highest priority, to support investment in our hospitals, schools and other front-line services.

This new savings programme will drive the sharing of best practice across public sector authorities, recognising that improving local delivery skills is essential to ensure better value from the use of private finance in public infrastructure in the future.

In addition, the Treasury will be taking forward engagement with the PFI industry to secure agreement to a code of conduct for industry and public sector co-operation on operational savings initiatives, and to improve transparency. The Government will continue to look at what more can be done to get better value for money from existing and future PFI projects.

It is important that the lessons demonstrated from these savings pilots are factored into future procurements from the very beginning. The first example for this will be the new programme of privately financed schools that was announced today. The new schools programme provides an opportunity to test an improved approach to working with the private sector to deliver essential public assets. This Government are committed to ensuring that the lessons learned from the PFI savings pilots are applied in the future pipeline of privately financed projects.

Public Service Pensions

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The coalition programme gave a commitment to review the long-term affordability and sustainability of public service pensions, and Lord Hutton's Independent Public

Service Pensions Commission has demonstrated that reform is needed. At Budget, the Government made clear that they accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trade unions and others and that we would set out proposals in the autumn that are affordable, sustainable and fair to both the public sector work force and the taxpayer.

The Government have already committed to retaining a form of defined benefit pension in the public sector and protecting accrued rights so that all the benefits that members have earned up to the point of change will be protected. Today, I would like to inform the House of the progress that has been made and the process going forwards.

The Government and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) have held a series of constructive meetings to discuss public service pension reform which have covered Lord Hutton's key recommendations and the Government's proposed employee contributions increase. A basis for agreement has been established in several areas, but differences remain on some of the key recommendations.

The Government and the TUC have agreed that to further inform the discussions on Lord Hutton's recommendations, there should be scheme level discussions alongside the central process already established. Scheme level discussions will ensure a fuller understanding of the implications of reforms, before final conclusions are reached. These scheme level discussions will deliver initial proposals for reformed schemes by the end of October this year, allowing further work to finalise detailed scheme design before the Government introduce legislation in due course.

Lord Hutton's recommendations will inform these scheme level discussions and the Government will provide scheme-specific cost ceilings. These ceilings will be based on Lord Hutton's proposals, but will go further and ensure that the pension individuals receive at normal pension age would be broadly as generous for low and middle-income earners as it is now. These cost ceilings will ensure that public service pensions remain affordable and sustainable, by setting a limit on the contribution made by the Government and ultimately the taxpayer.

Further to the rationale for short-term savings set out in Lord Hutton's interim report, the Government announced plans to target £2.8 billion savings per year by 2014-15 through public service employee pension contributions at spending review 2010. The scheme-by-scheme consultations for the unfunded public service pension schemes to deliver the first year's savings of £1.2 billion will commence by the end of this month. Reflecting the Government's commitment to protect the low paid, the Government's have set out their preferred parameters for any design. There should be no increase in employee contributions for those earning less that £15,000 and no more than a 1.5 percentage point increase in total by 2014-15 for those earning up to £21,000. This amounts to a 0.6 percentage point increase in 2012-13 on a pro-rata basis. It is proposed that higher earners will pay more but the Government have proposed a cap on the maximum increase of 6 percentage points (before tax relief) by 2014-15. This amounts to a 2.4 percentage point cap in 2012-13 on a pro-rata basis. These consultations will be completed by the end of October, in order to ensure implementation by April 2012.

The Government remain committed to securing the full spending review savings of £2.3 billion in 2013-14 and £2.8 billion in 2014-15, requiring each scheme to find savings equivalent to a 3.2 percentage point increase. Scheme specific discussions will make proposals on how these savings are achieved and will be required to make proposals by the end of October this year. For local government, the Government recognise that the funded nature of the scheme puts it in a different position and will discuss whether there are alternative ways to deliver some or all of the savings.

I have today exchanged letters on these issues with the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress and copies of these letters have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I would like to inform the House about losses relating to the failed FiReControl project. In my recent statement to the House of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 82-83WS, I announced our next steps following the closure of the project in December 2010 and a consultation on the future of fire and rescue services in England that finished in April 2011.

The amounts incurred on the project have been reported over the life of the project in the Department's annual resource accounts. Additionally, in 2010-11, as the project has now been cancelled, amounts incurred over the life of the project, including future liabilities, have been disclosed as losses in line with reporting requirements. The disclosure recognises £212 million spent on the project as a loss (with £10 million disclosed in 2009-10) plus an estimated future loss of £231 million in relation to the control centre buildings. A copy of this disclosure has been placed in the Library of the House.

This represents nearly half a billion pounds of taxpayers' money wasted by the last Government on an over-ambitious, ill-conceived, centrally imposed solution that was disproportionate to the risks faced and did not engage the end user—the fire and rescue service. The National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The failure of the FiReControl project", clearly sets out the many failings under the last Government. In December 2010, I took firm action, recognised by the National Audit Office, by closing the project before any more public money was wasted.

Our way forward is based on local solutions. It both reflects the views of the sector and encourages fire and rescue services to make best use of the legacy assets from FiReControl, including the control centre buildings, for the benefit of the taxpayer and local communities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's quarterly report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report July 2011". This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 June 2011, and outlines some of the many wider economic and social benefits to the UK.

The overall public sector funding package (PSFP) for the games remains at £9.298 billion. As reported in the annual report in February this year, the breakdown of the funding package altered from April 2011 reflecting the changing focus of the programme from construction to the operational delivery of the games. We continue to seek value for money and cost savings in our day-to-day running of the project. The ODA has also achieved additional significant savings in the quarter and, with just over a year to go to the 2012 games, the anticipated final cost (AFC), which is the current forecast of the final cost of the ODA's programme, including risks, scope changes and inflation, is £7.250 billion, compared to £7.266 billion at the end of March 2011, a total decrease of £16 million.

In the last quarter £1.5 million was released from the PSFP to support crowd management and public safety at the sailing venue in Weymouth. An additional £0.8 million was also released to dress two venues outside London and expand the installation of Olympic rings and Paralympic agitos on buildings in the UK, while £3.1 million was released for a small number of additional events as part of the London 2012 Festival.

Throughout the Big Build, the ODA has made strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure at the Olympic park with 88% of the games-time construction programme now completed and in many cases ahead of schedule. Completed venues now include the velodrome, the main stadium (running track to be laid later this year), the handball arena, the basketball arena and the international broadcast centre (IBC). Construction works are nearing completion on the aquatics centre which remains on track to be finished by 27 July 2011—one year to go until the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic games. The venue will be unveiled by the ODA to mark one year to go.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are continuing to help businesses and people through the difficult economic times. The games are also benefitting those living in the host boroughs, with nearly 25% of those working on the park hailing from the surrounding area. Currently, over 40,000 people have experienced work on the Olympic park and athlete's village since April 2008. More than 98% of the ODA's suppliers are based in the UK whether they be supplying the official merchandise for London 2012 or supplying the rain-screen cladding on the Olympic stadium. Smaller businesses have also had the chance to share in the success of the games with 73% of CompeteFor contracts awarded to SMEs.

The games are also supporting the Government's "Plan for Growth", by providing unique opportunities for business across the UK to grow internationally. UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is enabling this through the Host 2 Host programme which seeks to maximise the economic benefits of hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The programme allows business to create links and share best practice with previous and future host cities of Olympic games and other major sporting events.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 games.

Copies of the quarterly report July 2011 are available online at www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Cities Minister

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg): The Prime Minister has agreed that from today, in addition to his existing role as Minister with responsibility for decentralisation, the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), will become Minister for cities, with responsibility for English cities. He will report in this new role jointly to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

National Policy Statements

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): Yesterday, the House of Commons debated and approved the six energy national policy statements which I laid for parliamentary approval on 23 June 2011. I am therefore pleased to inform Parliament that I am today designating them as national policy statements under the provisions of section 5(1) of the Planning Act 2008, and laying copies before you as required by section 5(9)(b) of the same Act.

I believe this designation marks a significant step forward, as it delivers a key part of our plans to move to a low-carbon future while protecting the security of the UK's energy supplies at affordable prices.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the eighth progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of June.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011). This created two new sanctions regimes to replace the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999) al-Qaeda and Taliban sanctions regime. This is an important step. It sends a clear signal that now is the time for the Taliban to break with al-Qaeda and join the political process. We welcome the Government of Afghanistan's support of this initiative and their continued engagement in the implementation of sanctions to counter the insurgency,

June saw the anticipated increase in security incidents. The insurgency continued its attacks in an attempt to reassert itself, but the Afghan National Security Forces continue to respond effectively. The Afghan forces dealt with a major, sophisticated attack on the Intercontinental hotel in Kabul on 28 June professionally and speedily.

The Special Electoral Court established in December to investigate accusations of electoral fraud following the 18 September parliamentary elections, announced its findings. These called for the dismissal and replacement of 62 of the Lower House's 249 MPs. The Lower House of Parliament responded to the announcement by passing votes of no confidence in the Attorney-General, Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court.

Negotiations between the Afghan Government and the International Monetary Fund on a new IMF programme have stalled. While the Government of Afghanistan have made progress, the IMF is keen to see more robust action in key areas including asset recovery. A UK co-funded forensic audit of the Kabul bank is now under way.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

The July and August progress reports on developments in Afghanistan will be published in a single document in early September.

British Council

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): Copies of the British Council's annual report and accounts for the 2010-11 financial year have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It can also be found at the British Council's website, www.Britishcouncil.org.

During the period the British Council received £189,983,000 grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Building Stability Overseas

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I, together with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for International Development and the Secretary of State for Defence, wish to inform the House that the Government are publishing today our "Building Stability Overseas Strategy" which will help us to prioritise and implement a distinctive UK approach to building stability overseas with maximum impact.

The national security strategy (NSS) identified shaping a stable world as a core Government objective to reduce the likelihood of threats affecting the UK or our direct interests overseas. The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) made a commitment that we would reduce such threats by tackling them at source. The "Arab Spring" has highlighted the need for a strategic UK approach to early engagement in places at risk of instability, and to be prepared for a fast, flexible and integrated Government response.

The "Building Stability Overseas Strategy", which is being published online today on the websites of all three Departments, sets out clear, achievable proposals for how we can improve the way we identify, prevent and end instability and conflict overseas by using our diplomatic, development, defence and security tools, and by drawing on Britain's experience, relationships, reputation and values. We will prioritise action on those fragile and conflict-affected countries where the risks are high, our interests are most at stake and where we know we can have an impact. The strategy is based around three mutually-supporting pillars:

Early warning—Improving our ability to anticipate instability and potential triggers for conflict. To this end, we will establish an early warning system that will take a global view of countries in which political, economic and security shocks over the next 12 months could trigger instability. We will also produce a new internal watchlist of fragile countries in which we assess that the risks of conflict and insecurity are high and the UK has significant interests at stake.

Rapid crisis prevention and response—Improving our ability to take fast, appropriate and effective action to prevent a crisis or stop it escalating. We will therefore create a £20 million annual early action facility within the tri-departmental conflict pool. This will be a cross-Government facility with a mixture of official development assistance (ODA) and non-ODA resources to help us move more swiftly in response to warnings and opportunities. We will also continue to develop and improve the readiness of our stabilisation response teams (SRTs). These are integrated teams drawn from across Government—including military, police or civil servants and other experts—that can deploy swiftly into difficult environments and enable the UK to rapidly help shape the response to emerging crises, either bilaterally or with international partners.

Investing in upstream prevention—Helping to build strong, legitimate institutions and robust societies in fragile countries that are capable of managing tensions and shocks so there is a lower likelihood of instability and conflict. We are already investing more in upstream prevention, increasing to 30% by 2014-15 the proportion of UK official development assistance that supports conflict-affected and fragile states. In addition, we will work to ensure that the conflict pool provides predictable multi-year resources for: free, transparent and inclusive political systems; effective and accountable security and justice (including through defence engagement); and building the ability of local populations and regional and multilateral institutions to prevent and resolve the conflicts that affect them. We will also increase our work with other key groups such as local government, communities, the private sector, faith groups, civil society and the media.

I have deposited a copy of the strategy in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the FCO website at: www.fco.gov.uk, the DFID website at: www.dfid.gov.uk and the MOD website at: www.mod.gov.uk.

National Diplomatic Missions (Outstanding National Non-Domestic Rates Bills)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the national non-domestic rates requested from them.

They are obliged to pay only 6% of the total national non-domestic rates value which represents payment for specific services such as street cleaning, lighting, maintenance and fire services.

The total amount outstanding from all diplomatic missions is £566,009. As at 7 May 2011, missions listed below owed over £10,000 in respect of NNDR.

£35,000 has been repaid since February 2011.

Bangladesh	£84,542
Cameroon	£62,249
Côte d'Ivoire	£82,693
E. Guinea	£19,707
Iraq	£19,533
Liberia	£18,764
Sierra Leone	£52,651
Tunisia	£30,869
Ukraine	£26,526
Zimbabwe	£108,613

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations (Unpaid Parking Fines)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In 2010, there were 5,109 parking fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom which were brought to our attention by councils.

These totalled £491,086.

In March this year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned giving them the opportunity to either pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly.

Subsequent payments totalled £105,360 (with a further £77,310 of the outstanding debt being waived by councils). There remains a total of £308,416 in unpaid fines for 2010.

The table below details those diplomatic missions and international organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more, as of 15 June 2011.

Diplomatic Mission/ International Organisation	*Number of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge)*	*Amount in £*
China	257	£27,690
Afghanistan	245	£25,820
Turkey	253	£25,590
Saudi Arabia	169	£15,440
Cyprus	140	£14,500
Pakistan	128	£13,120
France	120	£11,900
Ghana	107	£10,760
Uzbekistan	102	£9,680
Malaysia	89	£8,950
Ukraine	86	£8,260
Russia	71	£7,920
Egypt	72	£7,180
Tunisia	68	£7,080
Jordan	76	£6,790
Nigeria	70	£6,590
Sudan	48	£4,920
Liberia	45	£4,660
Korea (North)	44	£4,560
Qatar	41	£4,500
Iraq	41	£4,180
Guinea	39	£4,120
Cote D'Ivoire	46	£3,800
Albania	33	£3,560
Libya	33	£3,530
Greece	31	£3,280
Morocco	34	£3,080
Mongolia	29	£3,040
Georgia	35	£3,010
Oman	31	£2,860
Romania	28	£2,860
Kuwait	24	£2,700
Iran	27	£2,660
Bangladesh	23	£2,560
Azerbaijan	27	£2,380
Germany	26	£2,340
Yemen	25	£2,300
USA	24	£2,210
Bulgaria	20	£2,120
Mauritius	20	£2,060
Mozambique	23	£1,970
Tajikistan	21	£1,780
Italy	15	£1,700
Kenya	14	£1,640
Slovenia	16	£1,580
Lebanon	16	£1,520
Equatorial Guinea	19	£1,490
Zambia	18	£1,450
Sierra Leone	15	£1,270
Moldova	12	£1,180
Spain	12	£1,160
India	17	£1,140
Ethiopia	*12*	£1,120

London Congestion Charge (Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The number of outstanding fines incurred by the diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom for non-payment of the London congestion charge since its introduction in February 2003 until 20 January 2011 was £49,707,491.

The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the congestion charge. The table below shows the 62 diplomatic missions and international organisations with outstanding fines totalling £100,000 or more.

Country	*Number of fines*	*Total outstanding (£)*
USA	45,005	5,029,920
Russia	38,380	4,358,100
Japan	31,073	3,486,120

Country	*Number of fines*	*Total outstanding (£)*
Germany	30,478	3,448,210
Nigeria	23,323	2,572,110
India	15,353	1,766,620
Sudan	14,325	1,549,260
Ghana	12,821	1,461,680
Poland	12,328	1,405,140
Spain	10,557	1,209,740
France	10,371	1,171,240
Greece	9,800	1,118,420
Kenya	10,015	1,090,230
Ukraine	9,354	1,066,200
Romania	8,789	996,400
Kazakhstan	8,258	950,360
Tanzania	8,318	896,680
Algeria	7,009	769,280
South Africa	6,641	726,340
Korea	5,928	687,720
Sierra Leone	5,955	637,900
Bulgaria	5,417	608,140
Hungary	5,154	584,020
Pakistan	4,714	548,390
Yemen	4,783	542,220
Slovakia	4,751	540,780
Belarus	4,599	521,640
Cyprus	4,502	515,740
Zambia	4,294	477,380
Cuba	3,992	452,260
Cameroon	3,826	422,840
Zimbabwe	3,402	359,360
Ethiopia	3,289	359,100
Czech Republic	3,043	343,100
Austria	2,680	306,800
Namibia	2,721	292,420
Mauritius	2,602	287,700
Swaziland	2,680	287,300
Equatorial Guinea	2,510	276,660
Mozambique	2,421	265,500
Botswana	2,246	254,700
Belgium	2,222	253,640
Lesotho	2,285	250,040
Denmark	2,123	244,400
Vietnam	2,133	239,540
Afghanistan	2,031	236,200
Malta	1,906	215,640
Malawi	1,969	212,960
Uganda	1,739	193,520
Côte d'Ivoire	1,748	185,620
Jamaica	1,575	176,600
Egypt	1,751	173,240
Liberia	1,505	170,440
Luxembourg	1,311	150,620
Guinea	1,394	145,180
Lithuania	1,242	144,880
Saudi Arabia	1,366	142,810
DPR Korea	1,272	135,660
Portugal	1,127	133,140
Turkey	1,077	113,010
Finland	988	112,460
China	918	106,000
Antigua and Barbuda	911	101,640

Alleged Offences (Diplomatic Immunity)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In 2010 15 serious offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 12 of these were driving-related. This is a decrease on the figures for 2009 (17 alleged offences—11 driving-related). We define serious offences as those that could, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment, also included is drink-driving or driving without insurance.

Some 22,500 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom and the majority of diplomats abide by UK law. The number of alleged serious crimes committed by the diplomatic community is proportionately low.

Under the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations, those entitled to immunity are expected to obey the law. The FCO does not tolerate foreign diplomats breaking the law.

We take all allegations of illegal activity seriously. When allegations of alleged criminal conduct are brought to our attention by the police, we ask the relevant foreign Government to waive diplomatic immunity where appropriate. For the most serious offences, we seek the immediate withdrawal of the diplomat.

Alleged offences reported to the FCO in 2010 are listed below.

Offences allegedly committed in 2010	
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Ghana	1
Kazakhstan	2
Kyrgyzstan	1
Uzbekistan	1
Saudi Arabia	2
Algeria	1
Driving under the influence of alcohol and without insurance	
Saudi Arabia	1
Driving without insurance	
Croatia	1
DRC	1
Egypt	1
Offences under the Human Trafficking Act	
Saudi Arabia	1
Actual bodily harm/assault	
Turkey	1
Robbery	
Côte d'Ivoire	1

Figures for previous years are available in my written statement to the House on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 26WS.

HEALTH

Extending Patient Choice of Provider (Guidance)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing operational guidance for the national health service on extending patient choice of provider.

In response to the NHS Future Forum's report, this Government remain committed to extending patients' choice to include choice of any qualified provider. Since April 2008, patients have been offered choice of provider in routine elective care. Both in the coalition agreement, and in the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", Cm 7881, this Government committed to giving patients greater choice and control over their health care.

Our goal is to enable patients to choose any qualified provider where this will result in better care. We will adopt a phased approach, introducing choice of provider for services where there is a strong demand from patients for greater choice, starting with community services. We will ensure patients, carers and professionals are engaged nationally and locally, and lessons are learned from each stage.

Choice of any qualified provider will mean that when patients are referred for a particular service, they can choose, where appropriate, from a range of providers that are qualified to provide safe, high-quality care and treatment—and select the one that best meets their individual needs. To ensure that competition is based on quality and not price, patients' choices will be limited to services covered by national or local tariff pricing. The guidance is intended for commissioners and current and prospective providers of NHS-funded services. Commissioners will continue to shape local services in line with best practice, including where services need to be integrated to improve quality.

Today I am also publishing the Government's response to the first part of our consultation, "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control". A response to the feedback received on the remaining commitments will follow later in the year.

The guidance, "Extending patient choice of provider", accompanying impact assessments and "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control Government response: Extending choice of provider (Any qualified provider)" have been placed in the Library. Copies of the guidance and the response to the consultation are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Suicide Prevention (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): Today I am publishing a consultation on a new suicide prevention strategy for England. "Consultation on preventing suicide in England: a cross-Government outcomes strategy to save lives", has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_128065.

Suicide rates in England have been at a historical low recently and are low in comparison to those of most other European countries. However, there were still nearly 4,400 suicides in England in 2009, the latest year for which national data are available.

Suicides are not inevitable. An inclusive society that avoids the marginalisation of individuals and which supports people at times of personal crisis will help to prevent suicides. Government and statutory services also have a role to play. We can build individual and community resilience. We can ensure that vulnerable people in the care of health and social services and at risk of suicide are supported and kept safe from preventable harm. We can also ensure that we intervene quickly when someone is in distress or in crisis.

In developing a new national all-age suicide prevention strategy for England, the Government have built on the successes of the earlier strategy published in 2002. Real progress has been made in reducing the already relatively low suicide rate to record low levels. One of the main changes from the previous strategy is the greater prominence of measures to support families—those who are worried that a loved one is at risk and those who are having to cope with the aftermath of a suicide.

There is no single approach to suicide prevention. It needs a broad co-ordinated system-wide approach that requires input from a wide range of partner agencies, organisations and sectors. People who have been directly affected by the suicide of a family member or friend, the voluntary, statutory and private sectors, academic researchers and Government Departments can all contribute to a sustained reduction in suicides in England.

The draft strategy sets out our overall objectives:

a reduction in the suicide rate in the general population in England; and

better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide.

We have identified six key areas for action to support delivery of these objectives:

reduce the risk of suicide in key high risk groups;

tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups;

reduce access to the means of suicide;

provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by a suicide;

support the media in delivering sensible and sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour; and

support research, data collection and monitoring.

The new health and wellbeing boards will become the local forum for determining local needs. These boards will be able to support suicide prevention by bringing together local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, directors of public health, adult social services and children's services and local Health Watch. This presents a unique opportunity for local agencies to look at the wider context and agree how best to marshal resources across agencies to have the greatest positive impact on local health and wellbeing.

The draft strategy has been developed with the support of leading experts in the field of suicide prevention, including the members of the national suicide prevention strategy advisory group, under the chairmanship of Professor Louis Appleby CBE. I would like to thank all members of this group for sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The consultation period will close on 11 October 2011.

Southern Cross

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I wish to update the House further on the situation regarding Southern Cross Healthcare.

As I have always made clear to the House, the Government's overriding concern is the welfare and safety of the 31,000 residents in Southern Cross's care. We expect all parties to work together to secure a consensual, solvent restructuring of the business that meets their collective responsibility to secure the welfare and care of residents. I am pleased to see that Southern Cross, its landlords and lenders continue to share that view.

Officials continue to maintain close contact with Southern Cross's senior management, landlords and lenders. Government continue to be actively involved in discussions with all parties. When I last updated the House on 12 July, Southern Cross had the previous day announced their expectation that the end of the restructuring process would see the operation of all the company's care homes being transferred to the landlords and alternative providers of care. This represents a step in the ongoing process, agreed between the company, its landlords and lenders on 15 June, for a consensual, solvent restructuring. Discussions to resolve the remaining steps continue.

I appreciate that residents, families and staff are anxious to know what will happen next. Let me repeat the assurances I have given to the House previously: whatever the outcome, no one—state-supported or self-funded—will find themselves homeless or without care. We have made clear to all parties involved in the restructuring discussions that they have a collective responsibility to ensure a way forward that covers all homes and assures continuity of care. In addition, we will continue to work with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association, the Care Quality Commission and others to ensure that they are ready to respond to any potential disruption to the continuity of care and to ensure that all residents are protected.

The announcement made on the 11 July by Southern Cross has no immediate effect on the provision of care or the operation of care homes. Southern Cross remains in operation, and will continue to operate all its care homes until transfers to new operators have taken place. I understand that this process is expected to be completed by the end of October or earlier. That does not mean however that it should take that long to make clear what each landlords plan is and how homes will be run by new operators.

Each of Southern Cross's landlords is settling its arrangements regarding which care home operators to work with. This is a key part of the ongoing discussions. The Government are strongly urging all parties to set out their plans as swiftly as possible so as to offer reassurance to residents and families. As these arrangements are finalised, we understand that updates will be issued. NHP the biggest of the landlords, owning 249 Southern Cross homes, announced its plans on 18 July to contract with an alternative provider of care and to transfer Southern Cross care home staff. The Department is being kept up-to-date on developments.

I want to make it absolutely clear that no transfer of homes will take place without new operators having been approved and registered by the Care Quality Commission. Alternative operators will need to be reputable and experienced care providers that can satisfy the CQC that they are capable of delivering high-quality care and of meeting all regulatory standards. A number of landlords which will take over the running of Southern Cross homes are already registered with CQC as care providers in their own right and there are established processes to allow these providers to extend their current registration to include additional homes.

For providers not currently registered with CQC, it will require a new application, which will be subject to full scrutiny and a determination of fitness to provide the service. CQC is committed to ensuring continuity of care, but it will not lower the regulatory bar or reduce the rigour of the registration. CQC's principal concern is the safety of service users and it will not compromise on the standards required. I have been assured that CQC will ensure that resources will be made available to handle any registration work that is needed and they have been working with Southern Cross for some time to prepare for this.

The transfer of care homes to alternative operators will be a managed process that ensures continuity of services. The company has withdrawn its statutory redundancy notice and given an undertaking to care home staff that they will transfer to new operators on their current terms. All parties involved in the negotiations have given a clear commitment that the continuity of care will be paramount throughout the process.

For the future, I would like to assure the House that the Government will be considering what measures may need to be put in place to prevent similar situations from arising again. Options for financial regulation or other measures will be considered as part of the development of the forthcoming White Paper on social care. The Department of Health is already working with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to consider ways to ensure a diverse and dynamic social care market, but with the right safeguards for stability and continuity of care. I will update the House as this work develops.

With the forthcoming recess, I appreciate that hon. Members will want to be informed of developments. I undertake to write to hon. Members to keep them informed as the matter progresses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

London Bombings (Government Response to Coroner's Inquests)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): In my written ministerial statement on 9 May, *Official Report*, columns 26-27WS, I undertook to inform the House of the Government's response to Lady Justice Hallett's report following her inquests into the 7 July attacks.

All responses have been published on the inquests website earlier today. The Government have not asked for any part of their response to be withheld.

The Government and the Security Service have carefully considered the coroner's report and fully accept the three recommendations directed to it—namely recommendations 1, 2 and 9. The Government response sets out in full the next steps which have been or will be taken to address these three recommendations.

The Government response also provides full consideration on areas of concern that were raised by the coroner, but which were not attached to formal recommendations, and considers the broader UK implications of those recommendations addressed to London-based organisations.

Lady Justice Hallett has identified important areas where the Government and local partners, including the emergency services, can work to improve our ability to respond to emergencies. Through the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, and the wider Resilience Programme led by the Cabinet Office, we will work to implement swiftly the actions set out in the Government's response.

A copy of the Government response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Human Trafficking

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am today publishing the Government's human trafficking strategy "Human Trafficking: The Government's Strategy" a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Victim care arrangements remain central to the Government's approach to combating trafficking. Adult victim care arrangements will be strengthened, with support offered by a greater range of specialist care providers. This will ensure that victims have access to the care they need, tailored to their particular circumstances and in line with our international commitments. We will also ensure that children remain a focus of our efforts as we look to combat those traffickers who exploit vulnerable children.

A renewed focus on preventing human trafficking is required. The UK is already a world leader in the fight against trafficking but we recognise more can be done with international partners to reduce the threat from overseas. The strategy recognises the importance of working with source and transit countries to target and disrupt the work of traffickers and prevent more vulnerable men, women and children from becoming trafficking victims. A key aspect of our approach will be better intelligence gathering and sharing and, from 2013 the National Crime Agency will play a vital role in spearheading our fight against organised criminal groups who are engaged in human trafficking.

The strategy also sets out our aim to better co-ordinate our border and policing law enforcement efforts to prevent traffickers from entering the UK. We will use intelligence to target those convicted or suspected of trafficking at the border as well as developing risk-based indicators to facilitate the systematic targeting of high risk passengers.

We will also ensure we monitor intelligence in relation to key events such as the Olympics and Paralympics to respond quickly and appropriately to any potential increased risk of trafficking.

Proceeds of Crime

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament the 2010-11 annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power introduced to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act.

From 1 April 2010 to the end of March 2011 over £67 million in cash was seized by law enforcement agencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland under powers in the Act. The seizures are subject to further investigation, and the cash is subject to further judicially approved detention, before forfeiture in the magistrates court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Secure Estate Strategy for Children and Young People

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): Today is the launch of a consultation on the "Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People for England and Wales".

This is a joint publication between the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board. The consultation invites views on a proposed strategy for the under-18 secure estate for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15. Custody continues to play an important part in the youth justice system for the small number of young people for whom a community sentence is not appropriate. The recent reduction in the number of young people in custody means that the secure estate is now going through a period of change. This presents an opportunity to consider the most appropriate configuration of the estate and consider whether different regimes can deliver improved outcomes.

The consultation, which will run for 12 weeks, and details on how to respond can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk.

Deaths of Service Personnel Overseas (Inquests)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest of our quarterly statements to the House with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. As always, we wish to express the Government's deep and abiding gratitude to all of our service personnel who have served, or are now serving, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Once again we also extend our sincere condolences to the families of those service personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in connection with the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in particular the 11 service personnel who have died since our last statement. Our thoughts remain with all of the families.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, and other coroners in England and Wales. This statement gives the position at 8 July 2011.

To supplement this statement I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses, which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. The tables include information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held.

Our Departments will continue to work closely together to improve our processes. We will continue the Government's support for coroners conducting inquests into operational deaths. We remain grateful to them and their staff for their dedication, together with those people who are providing support and information throughout the inquest process and afterwards.

Since October 2007 both Departments have provided additional resources for operational inquests. These resources have been provided to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, Mr David Ridley, due to the repatriation of service personnel at RAF Lyneham. These measures have been provided to ensure that there is not a backlog of operational inquests. As I confirmed in the last statement, we will again provide additional resources to the Oxfordshire coroner, Mr Nicholas Gardiner, when repatriation ceremonies for those killed on operations overseas move to RAF Brize Norton within his district. The move will take place on 1 September 2011.

Current status of inquests

Since the last statement there have been 23 inquests into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A total of 476 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 12 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In three further cases, no formal inquest was held. In two of these cases the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident. In the third case, where the serviceman died of his injuries in Scotland, it was decided not to hold a fatal accident inquiry.

Open inquests

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

There are currently 75 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Twenty-one of these involve deaths in the last six months. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has retained 28 of the remaining open inquests, and 35 are being conducted by coroners closer to the next-of-kin. Hearing dates have been set in 13 cases.

There is one remaining open inquest into deaths from operations in Iraq.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

Twelve inquests remain to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. Two hearing dates have been set. The remaining 10 cases will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to inform the House of progress with the remaining inquests.

PRIME MINISTER

Special Advisers

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): Listed below are the names of the special advisers in post at 19 July 2011, including each special adviser's pay band, and actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with details of the special advisers' pay ranges for 2011-12.

The paybill for the period 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £4.5 million. This compares to £6.8 million for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, and £2.1 million for the period 1 April 2010 to 12 May 2010, which includes £1.8 million in severance pay.

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
The Prime Minister	Craig Oliver	Within scheme ceiling	140,000
	Andrew Cooper	Within scheme ceiling	140,000
	Edward Llewellyn	Within scheme ceiling	125,000
	Kate Fall	PB4	100,000
	Gabby Bertin	PB3	80.000
	Tim Chatwin	PB3	70,000
	Steve Hilton	PB3	90,000
	Polly Mackenzie[1]	PB3	80,000
	James O'Shaughnessy	PB3	87,000
	Lena Pietsch[1]	PB3	80,000
	Patrick Rock	PB3	78,000
	Liz Sugg	PB3	80,000
	Peter Campbell	PB2	60,000
	Sean Kemp[1]	PB2	60,000
	Michael Salter	PB2	65,000
	Alan Sendorek	PB2	60,000
	Rohan Silva	PB2	69,266
	Isabel Spearman (p/t)	PB2	
	Sean Worth	PB2	
	Tim Colbourne[1]	PB1	

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
Deputy Prime Minister	Jonny Oates	PB4	98,500
	Richard Reeves	PB3	85,000
	Alison Suttie	PB3	80,000
	Chris Saunders	PB2	60,000
	James McGrory	PB1	
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Arminka Helic	PB3	70,000
	Denzil Davidson	PB2	
	Will Littlejohn	PB1	
Chancellor of the of the Exchequer[3]	Ramesh Chhabra	PB2	60,000
	Poppy Mitchell-Rose	PB1	
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	David Hass	PB2	69,266
	Kathryn Laing	PB1	
Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equality	Fiona Cunningham	PB2	65,000
	Nick Timothy	PB2	65,000
Secretary of State for Defence	Luke Coffey	PB2	60,740
	Oliver Waghorn	PB2	60,740
	Hayden Allan	PB2	
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills	Katie Waring	PB1	
	Giles Wilkes	PB1	
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Susie Squire	PB2	
	Philippa Stroud	PB2	69,250
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	Duncan Brack	PB2	67,000
	Joel Kenrick	PB2	
Secretary of State for Health	Bill Morgan	PB3	76,000
	Jenny Jackson	PB2	
Secretary of State for Education	Henry de Zoete	PB2	
	Dominic Cummings	PB1	
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Giles Kenningham	PB2	64,500
	Sheridan Westlake	PB2	64,500
Secretary of State for Transport	Sian Jones	PB2	
	Paul Stephenson	PB2	
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Simon Cawte	PB2	
	Amy Fisher	PB2	60,000
Secretary of State for International Development	Philippa Buckley	PB1	
	Richard Parr	PB1	
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Jonathan Caine	PB2	69,266
Secretary of State for Scotland	Euan Roddin	PB2	60,000
Secretary of State for Wales	Richard Hazlewood	PB2	
Secretary of State for Culture, Media, the Olympics and Sport	Adam Smith	PB2	
	Sue Beeby	PB2	
Chief Secretary	Will de Peyer	PB2	63,000
	Julia Goldsworthy	PB3	74,000
Minister without Portfolio	Naweed Khan	PBO	
Leader of the House of Lords, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Flora Coleman	PBO	
	Elisabeth Plummer	PB0	
	James Marshall	PB2	
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General	Laura Trott	PB2	
Minister of State, Cabinet Office	Martha Varney	PB1	
Minister of State (Universities and Science), BIS	Nick Hillman	PB2	

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal	Robert Riddell	PB2	
Chief Whip (Commons)	Chris White	PB2	
	Ben Williams	PB2	*68,000*

[1] Appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister and based in No. 10.

[2] In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Rupert Harrison (PB3, £80,000), and Eleanor Shawcross (PB2) to the Council of Economic Advisers.

Special Adviser Pay Bands for 2011-12

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2011-12 are as follows:

Scheme Ceiling	*£142,668*
Pay Band 4	£88,966-£106,864
Pay Band 3 and Premium	£66,512-£103,263
Pay Band 2	£52,215-£69,266
Pay Band 1	£40,352-£54,121
Pay Band 0	Up to £40,352

TRANSPORT

Olympics Airspace

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 7 March the Government announced plans to introduce temporary airspace restrictions in the south-east of England during the London Olympic and Paralympic games to help protect key games locations from potential airborne risks. We also made clear that further work would be done to evaluate the potential impact of these measures before final decisions were made. Additional work was also envisaged on possible exemptions and alleviations to mitigate the impact of the proposed restrictions on the aviation industry where possible, without reducing the effectiveness and robustness of the security measures.

Since March further extensive work has been done in conjunction with the aviation sector to understand the likely impact of the planned restrictions on the industry. Alongside this, security experts have also carried out further analysis on the risks to the games. This work has given us a more sophisticated understanding of the relative challenges as regards the Olympics and the Paralympics. The changes to the original measures have been made to minimise the impact of the restrictions without compromising the safety and security of the games.

As a result of both this improved understanding and work with the aviation community, the Government are today announcing further development of the plans for temporary airspace control measures.

Between 14 July and 15 August 2012, the airspace measures will, as previously proposed, comprise an inner Prohibited Zone and an outer Restricted Zone, approximately 60 nautical miles across, centred on the Olympic park.

Only certain categories of aircraft—those operating commercial services and subject to full aviation security procedures—will normally be permitted to operate within the Prohibited Zone. Aircraft involved in, for example, police, emergency medical, essential survey and Olympic broadcast operations will be exempt. Subject to specific conditions, exemptions will also be granted to flights operating from Denham, Fairoaks and White Waltham airfields, and the London heliport at Battersea—all located within the Prohibited Zone—directly to and from the boundary with the Restricted Zone.

As previously proposed, all types of aircraft will be permitted to operate in the wider Restricted Zone during this period provided that they can satisfy certain requirements designed to ensure that aircraft within the zone can be readily identified and monitored by air traffic control. Additional changes to the original plans are now proposed, including exemptions for flights directly exiting the Restricted Zone from airfields within three nautical miles of the zone's outer boundary, and the removal of the prohibition against cross country solo student flights. Small changes to the boundaries of the Prohibited and Restricted Zones are also being made, primarily for reasons of air traffic safety and ease of navigation. Further work is under way to look at whether the current minimum period for filing a flight plan can be reduced from the existing two hours.

From 16 August until the Paralympic village closes on 12 September 2012, the Prohibited and Restricted Zones will be replaced by three separate, smaller, areas of restricted airspace one over central London and the Olympic park, one over the Eton Dorney Paralympic rowing venue, and one over the rowing village at Egham. Access to this airspace will be restricted to those aircraft permitted to operate within the earlier Prohibited Zone. A specific exemption will be granted in respect of operations into and out of the London heliport.

A similar approach—the introduction of localised areas of temporarily restricted airspace—will be taken in respect of the games venues elsewhere across the country as and when appropriate during the games period.

Full details of the planned airspace restrictions, including maps, can be found on the Airspace Safety Initiative website at: www.airspacesafety.com/Olympics.

It is not expected that any airports will need to close as a result of the planned measures. There should be no impact on scheduled air services, and a significantly reduced impact on most other types of operation within the Prohibited and Restricted Zones as a result of the changes made to the design and duration of the restrictions.

The Government's paramount objective is the delivery of a safe and secure games for all. We are confident that the measures announced today are a proportionate approach, balancing the need to put in place appropriate and effective counter-measures against potential aviation based risks to the games with the desire to minimise the impact on the aviation community. However, should circumstances change, the Government reserve the right to implement additional airspace security measures should the need arise.

WALES

Commission on Devolution in Wales

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): The coalition's programme for government includes a commitment to

> "establish a process similar to the Calman Commission for the Welsh Assembly"

and the Government's proposals are now taking shape. I am pleased to inform the House of our plans so far.

A key strength of the Calman Commission was its consensual approach, and the Government are committed to establish a similar approach in Wales. With this in mind we have worked with the Welsh Government and all parties in the Assembly to reach a broad consensus on how we move forward.

An independent commission will be established in the autumn to look at the financial accountability of the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales. The commission will examine issues of fiscal devolution and accountability in Wales and will focus on building consensus. It will take into consideration the work of the Holtham commission and will make every effort to report on its recommendations in the autumn of 2012.

After the commission has reported and the Government have considered its proposals, the commission will look at the constitutional settlement in Wales in the light of experience. The commission will aim to report its findings in 2013.

Work will continue between the UK Government and the Welsh Government over the summer, and I will look to make further announcements on the process after recess.

The Government are committed to considering all aspects of the Holtham commission's reports. Separate discussions will continue between the UK Government and the Welsh Government on Holtham's proposals for funding reform for Wales and they will be extended to include the operation of existing borrowing powers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit (Supported Housing)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): My noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State, responsible for Welfare Reform, Lord Freud of Eastry, has made the following statement:

Later today, the Government will publish a consultation paper on proposals to review the way in which housing benefit is calculated for those who live in supported housing. Views will be invited to inform the detailed development of our proposals as we look toward amending legislation.

Many of those who live in supported housing managed or owned by not for profit social or voluntary sector providers have their housing benefit based on more generous rules. However, these rules have been in place since the mid-90s and no longer fit the way that personal care and support are now commonly delivered. These rules have also become complex both to administer and understand.

We want housing benefit to support independence in the community while being fair, affordable and sustainable. Our challenge is to reform housing benefit in such a way that it can more effectively help those people with specialist housing needs who commonly live in specialist supported housing or in adapted housing. Our proposals recognise that the provision of supported housing broadly falls into two groups.

The more easily recognisable types of supported housing such as hostels, refuges, foyers and purpose-built sheltered housing, where residents commonly need less intensive personal care and support to help them remain in the community. For this group we are proposing to pay the local housing allowance but with fixed additions which will continue to recognise the higher costs of providing this type of housing.

The type of supported housing often specifically built, acquired and/or adapted for the individual tenant(s) who have more specific housing needs that can not be met by mainstream or existing supported housing. The detail of the exact funding arrangements are yet to be determined but we propose that decisions on the level of any extra help that an individual may need toward their rent over and above the standard local housing allowance would be made locally.

It is important to be clear that these reforms are not looking to cut expenditure in this sector but to better direct it. In the face of rising expenditure in this area, it is important to find the right balance between protecting reasonable rents and providing effective expenditure control for the taxpayer. Consequently any changes will need to be cost neutral overall.

A copy of the consultation paper will be available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/supported-housing.shtml.

Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Workplace Pension Reform (Automatic Enrolment)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to be able to publish later today the Government's consultation document "Workplace Pension Reform—Completing the Legislative Framework for Automatic Enrolment", and to announce that today marks the beginning of a period of formal consultation on draft regulations relating to automatic enrolment into workplace pension schemes. The consultation period will run for 12 weeks, ending on 11 October.

This consultation addresses the remaining legislative changes needed to put in place the Government's workplace pensions reforms, which are due to begin in 2012. The "Making Automatic Enrolment Work" review, which took place last year, recommended changes to the proposed requirements in order to make it easier for employers and employees to understand and operate the new automatic enrolment requirement. These changes, together with some minor technical amendments, are set out in the draft regulations published alongside the consultation document.

I would like to thank all those people and organisations who have offered their views and advice in response to our recent informal consultation, and hope that they will continue to do so now that consultation has moved on to a formal footing.

The consultation document will be available later today on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/workplace-pension-reform-2011.shtml

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 11 August 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Public Disorder (Business Support)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): The appalling criminality we have seen across England in recent days has devastated not only local communities but also a very significant number of businesses. BIS and other Government Departments are working with local enterprise partnerships, local authorities and business organisations to ensure affected businesses have access to practical advice, information and support to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. I would like to set out what help and advice we can offer these businesses.

Insurance

Businesses which have suffered loss should obtain a crime number from the police and contact their insurers immediately. We are working closely with the insurance industry to make sure that all claims from affected businesses are dealt with swiftly and satisfactorily. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) have confirmed that insurers' priority is to help business through this traumatic period. Insurers are working as quickly as they can to deal with claims and most have 24-hour call centres.

The ABI advise us that their member companies will be on hand to answer any questions that affected businesses may have. Most commercial insurance policies will cover businesses for damage to their premises, including the interruption to their business as a result of fire, looting and the other damage caused by the recent riots. Some policies will also cover those businesses which are not damaged but whose trade has been affected by the aftermath.

Any uninsured individual, homeowner or business that has suffered damage to or loss of their buildings or property as a result of rioting, can seek compensation from their Police Authority under the Riot Damages Act. It is normally the case that claims must be received within 14 days but to give people more time to submit these claims the Home Secretary is extending the period to 42 days.

Online information and advice

Our online resource for business, www.businesslink.gov.uk, has already been updated with practical advice and information on business continuity, risk management, and safety guidance. The business link national helpline number is 0845 600 9006.

This is in addition to advice issued by local police forces and specific information circulated by relevant trade associations.

High Street Support Scheme

Affected businesses will also be able to call upon help from the new £20 million High Street Support Scheme that I am announcing today jointly with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The flexible scheme will be aimed at supporting the specific streets and areas where businesses have suffered most as a result of the disturbances.

Authorities will be able to use it to:

fund the proportion of hardship relief from business rates that would otherwise fall to them;

help affected firms to get back up and running quickly, for instance if assistance is needed with business clear-up, replacement of equipment, or costs of temporary accommodation.

We will keep the steps we have taken under review. This is an evolving situation and we are working to assess the cost to affected businesses.

Business Rates.

Central Government will fund three quarters of the cost of hardship rate relief to give businesses in need relief from business rates. Through the High Street Support Scheme we will also cover the proportion normally borne by local authorities.

Seriously damaged business properties will be taken off valuation lists, and the Secretary of State for Communities has strongly encouraged the Valuation Office Agency to do so as promptly as possible. This removes any liability for council tax or business rates.

Access to Finance

We are working closely with the British Bankers Association to ensure that affected businesses of all sizes, but especially small businesses, receive help.

Where businesses have been affected by the recent rioting banks have put in place special arrangements to make sure that emergency enquiries from affected customers can be dealt with simply and quickly.

Banks have put in place numbers for customers to call, teams are available inside the banks to help and business relationship managers are getting in contact.

The banks will sympathetically and sensitively consider the problems of each business. Additional financial support will be available should it be required to provide solutions for the affected businesses. These include, for example, where necessary making available short to medium-term finance arrangements for repairs and to replace stock, and repayment holidays until insurance claims are settled.

Tax

HMRC will delay tax payments for businesses needing help through Time to Pay and will offer other practical support. They have today announced a single, Civil Disorder Helpline number—0845 3661207 to provide comprehensive advice. They will deal sympathetically with problems currently faced by businesses and individuals, including:

agreeing payment schedules, including short tem deferrals, with those who are unable to pay their tax bills due to temporary financial difficulties;

practical solutions where businesses and individuals cannot meet their other obligations—for instance, if their records have been lost or destroyed in the disturbances.

Companies House

If any affected business will be unable to file accounts or other documents on time as a direct result of the disturbances. Companies House will agree an extension and ensure that companies do not incur the usual penalties which apply for late filings.

Employment advice

ACAS have issued advice on good practice regarding management of employees in these circumstances.

This includes advice and information about the legal position for employees and employers especially where there is disruption to normal working hours http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3418.

I would like to express my appreciation to those business organisations whose members have been affected and who have responded with urgency to provide advice and support at this difficult time. I would also like to thank all their members and local branches who have worked closely with the police.

Bank	*Business Contact Number*
Bank of Scotland	0845 300 0268 To make an insurance claim call - 0844 893 9582 For general inquiries call - 0800 048 4363
Barclays	0845 605 2345
HSBC	08457 606 060
Lloyds TSB	0845 072 5555 To make an insurance claim call - 0844 893 9580 For general inquiries call - 0844 893 9560
NatWest	0800 158 5977
RBS	0800 092 3087
Santander	0800 056 1991

The Government recognise that the impact on business will continue beyond this immediate recovery period, and we will continue to work together with business organisations to identify what longer-term help is needed. This is particularly true of our high streets which the Government are committed to supporting and promoting. We will also work with the foreign investor community to restore confidence in the UK as a destination for investment. BIS Local will work closely with local enterprise partnerships and local authorities to secure a prosperous and vibrant future for our local high streets.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Public Disorder (Community Support)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I wish to outline the steps we are taking to support and rebuild local communities after the shameful criminal activity of recent days.

Recovery Scheme

Affected local authorities will continue to be eligible for the long-standing Bellwin scheme to meet immediate and sizeable recovery costs. However, the thresholds in the existing scheme mean that most councils would only receive assistance above costs in excess of circa £1 million, and we assess that many affected local authorities may not benefit.

To support local councils, I am establishing a new recovery scheme of up to £10 million, allocated to councils via Section 31 grants. Councils will be able to claim back the costs directly incurred in making areas safe, clean and clear again. This fund can also be used to support councils who use their powers to offer council tax discounts or council tax relief to those whose homes have been damaged but are still habitable.

In this extraordinary situation, my Department is also willing to meet the immediate costs of re-housing those made homeless by these disturbances. This can be done under established homelessness funding processes.

Seriously damaged domestic and business properties will be taken off the respective valuation lists, and I have strongly encouraged the Valuation Office Agency to do so as promptly as possible. This removes any liability for council tax or business rates.

High Street Support Scheme

With my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, we will provide an additional £20 million to create a new High Street Support Scheme. The flexible scheme will be aimed at supporting the specific streets and areas where businesses suffered most as a result of the disturbances. Local authorities will be able to use it to fund the proportion of hardship relief from business rates that would otherwise fall to them, and to help affected firms to get back up and running quickly, for instance if assistance is needed with business clear-up, replacement of equipment, or costs of temporary accommodation. A quarter of the cost of hardship rate relief is normally borne by local authorities and three quarters by central Government.

We will keep the steps we have taken under review. This is an evolving situation and we are working to assess the cost to affected businesses. We will announce further details of the Recovery Scheme and High Street Support Scheme next week and expect that councils will be able to make claims and receive grants quickly and easily.

In addition, any individual, home owner or small business that has suffered damage to or loss of their buildings or property as a result of rioting can seek compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act. Importantly this compensation is paid to the uninsured too. It is normally the case that claims must be received within 14 days, but to give people more time to submit these claims we will extend the period to 42 days. We will urge the police to respond helpfully and swiftly to all legitimate claims, and the Government are working closely with forces, to ensure they have the funds they need to meet the costs of the operation itself and any claims that they may receive under the Riot (Damages) Act.

It is not just for the state to support local firms affected by these criminal actions. I encourage every local resident to make an effort to shop locally in this and coming weeks and support the local high streets which are the lifeblood of our communities.

Sanctions against criminals

Crime does not pay and I want to send out a strong signal to these violent criminals.

It is already a ground for eviction in existing legislation if a tenant or a member of their family is involved in antisocial behaviour or criminal activity in their local neighbourhood. I would urge landlords to consider this provision. We welcome the decision of Hammersmith and Fulham, Greenwich, Southwark and Manchester among others to seek to evict their social tenants found guilty of rioting, and would encourage more local authorities to follow suit.

My Department is proposing to make necessary changes to housing legislation so that landlords will have even stronger powers to evict tenants who engage in serious antisocial behaviour or criminal activity such as rioting beyond the local neighbourhood. We intend to consult on this proposal immediately as part of the ongoing consultation on anti-social behaviour.

Tribute to local communities

The professionalism shown by all firefighters across the nation over the last few days has been outstanding, and I would like to thank all of them for their efforts.

Fire crews have carried out their duties in the face of shameful criminal behaviour of rioters, who have physically attacked the very people protecting their homes and communities from arson.

We all owe them all a debt of gratitude for their tireless work protecting lives and communities, and we have a fire and rescue service of which we can rightly proud.

Local councils have also risen to the challenge, leading the clear-up in their local areas and supporting those worst affected. There have been some striking examples of positive social action, uniting our communities across class, colour and creed.

Petition

Monday 11 July 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

NHS (Cornwall)

The Petition of residents of West Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and St Ives, and others,

Declares their opposition to the Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament as it will take away their single Cornwall National Health Service and replace it with consortia led by GPs. Further, the Bill will allow the increased involvement of profit-led companies in our health service.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons rejects the Health and Social Care Bill

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew George, Official Report,* 8 June 2011; Vol. 529, c. 246.]

[P000926]

Observations from the Secretary for State for Health:

The issue referred to relates to the Health and Social Care Bill, which was partially recommitted to the Public Bill Committee on 14 June.

Ministers believe that the NHS is a great institution, but that it could be still better. The Government's plans seek to put clinicians at the heart of planning services to improve the care for their patients—there is a body of evidence both from this country and internationally about the importance of involving clinicians in commissioning decisions and this is what our proposals are built upon. Front-line clinicians will be empowered to be the leaders of a more autonomous NHS, with increased accountability to their local populations.

With regard to the residents of West Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and St Ives and others' specific concerns, the Health and Social Care Bill does provide the statutory basis for the establishment of GP-led clinical commissioning groups (called consortia in the Bill as currently drafted). These commissioning groups will be part of the NHS, which remains a comprehensive health service, free at the point of use.

Through GP commissioning, GPs will be able to use healthcare resources to transform the quality of care and health outcomes for patients. This builds on the crucial role that GPs play in co-ordinating patient care and committing NHS resources through daily clinical decisions.

We do not wish to be unduly prescriptive about the size of clinical commissioning groups. There have been widespread variations in the size and population coverage of PCTs, and there is no evidence to suggest a single "right" size. It is important that solutions develop from the bottom up and are not imposed from above. Moreover, clinical commissioning groups will have the freedom to make commissioning decisions and they may choose to act collectively, for instance by adopting a lead commissioner model to negotiate and monitor contacts with large hospital trusts or with urgent care providers.

This is not about privatising the NHS. The NHS is built on the principle that it is free at the point of use for everyone based on need, not ability to pay. This will not change. The NHS has always benefited from a mixed economy of providers and the private and voluntary sectors perform an important role in service delivery and will continue to do so. Competition in the NHS helps to improve quality and efficiency by allowing people to choose the provider that they wish from a list of accredited providers: as the patient chooses the provider for their care but does not pay for it directly, price plays no part in their decision. However, it will be in providers' interests to maintain and improve the quality of their services to attract patients. To avoid any doubt about this, we will make it illegal for current or future Ministers, the NHS Commissioning Board or Monitor, to attempt to increase or maintain the market share of the private sector over the NHS, or vice versa.

Petitions

Monday 18 July 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Response to DEFRA Consultation on Water Charges in the South West Water Area

The Petition of residents of Torbay,

Declares that the Petitioners welcome the Government's commitment to fair and affordable water and sewerage services; and further notes the recommendations contained in paragraph 4.18 of the consultation document "Affordable water: a consultation on the Government's proposals following the Walker Review on Charging".

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to enhance the Water Sure scheme, to introduce a social tariff to benefit water consumers on low incomes and to introduce an annual payment of £40 million to South West Water from public funds to reduce water bills so that they are close to the national average for identical services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Adrian Sanders, Official Report,* 22 June 2011; Vol. 530, c. 444 .]

[P000931]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government's consultation on water affordability closed on 17 June. Paragraph 4.18 of the consultation document invited views on a number of options that could provide additional Government spending to provide further support for households in the South West.

Around 100 responses were received, including responses from Ofwat, the Consumer Council for Water, water and sewerage companies, organisations that represent vulnerable households and individual responses from households in the South West Water area.

The Government are currently considering these responses. We will publish a Water White Paper by December to set out how we will support households who face water affordability pressures and households in areas with particularly high water bills, such as the South West.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency and Maternity Services at King George Hospital (Ilford North)

The Petition of the residents of North East London and others.

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the proposed closure of accident and emergency and maternity wards at King George Hospital Redbridge would not be in the best interests of the people living in these constituencies.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to stop the proposed closure of the A&E and maternity wards at King George Hospital.

The Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Lee Scott, Official Report,* 6 July 2011; Vol. 530, c. 1622 .]

[P000934]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised relate to proposals for NHS service change under the reconfiguration scheme known as "Health for North East London".

As part of the local overview and scrutiny process, this scheme was referred by the LB Redbridge, LB Barking and Dagenham, LB Havering, and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Secretary of State for Health. On 9 February 2011 the Secretary of State wrote to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), asking it to consider whether a full review of the Health for North East London scheme was required. Following receipt of that advice, the Secretary of State has asked the IRP to undertake a full review and to report back to him by 22 July 2011. He will then consider its recommendations.

This Government have pledged that, in future, all NHS service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. Consequently, the Secretary of State for Health announced a review of all service change proposals. He outlined new, strengthened criteria that he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet. These criteria (known as the four tests) are:

Support from GP commissioners;

Arrangements for public and patient engagement, including local authorities being further strengthened;

Greater clarity about the clinical evidence bases underpinning proposals; and

Proposals taking into account the need to develop and support patient choice.

The local NHS revisited proposals for King George Hospital under the "Health for North East London" scheme. The local debate about changes to services included talking through the issues with GPs, councillors, medical committees, national bodies and local patient representatives, in addition to local MPs.

The joint committee of PCTs (JCPCTs) met in public on 15 December 2010 to consider proposals for urgent and emergency care, maternity, children's services and the vision for King George Hospital, Ilford. The JCPCTs approved the proposals for change against the four tests and NHS London is assured the four tests have been met.

TREASURY

Abolition of cheques

The Petition of Dr H. Gilthorpe and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are profoundly concerned by the abolition of cheques.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the Payments Council to reverse the decision to abolish cheques and maintain them as a method of payment for the foreseeable future

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Nicholas Brown, Official Report,* 13 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 425 .]

[P000939]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government thank Dr Gilthorpe and the other signatories for their petition on the potential abolition of cheques.

The Payments Council is responsible for the proposal to phase out cheques. The Payments Council announced on 12 July 2011 that cheques will continue for as long as customers need them. A previously announced target for closing the cheque clearing system by 2018 has been cancelled.

The Government are pleased that the Payments Council has responded to public opinion by committing to maintain cheque services for as long as customers need them. This decision reflects the view expressed by the Financial Secretary in a letter to the Treasury Select Committee on 14 June 2011, and in discussions with the Payments Council, that cheques should not be withdrawn until the alternatives were widely available and accepted.

Petitions

Tuesday 19 July 2011

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Development (Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners believe that the application to build 115 new houses at the north end of Station road in Higham Ferrers will put intolerable pressure on public services and local infrastructure, in particular the A6/A45 junction at Chowns Mill which is already severely congested, pressure on already overcrowded schools, demands on public transport which is already inadequate, additional burdens on the already hard pressed on the local NHS; that the application should not be approved until significant improvements have been made in local infrastructure.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with Secretary of State for Transport and East Northamptonshire District Council and Higham Ferrers Parish Council to find a solution to the overdevelopment of Higham Ferrers and lack of infrastructure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr Peter Bone.]*

[P000949]

Ethiopia (Human Rights)

The Petition of Ethiopian refugees resident in Britain,

Declares that more than one third of Ethiopia's budget consists of foreign aid; notes that Ethiopia has made progress towards achieving some of the UN Millennium Development Goals; notes that the Petitioners believe that there is a systemic disregard for human rights by the Ethiopian Government; and notes with concern the systemic violation of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights enshrined in the Ethiopian constitution and guaranteed in UN conventions to which Ethiopia is signatory, in particular: detention without fair trial of political opponents and critics of the Government; politically motivated extra-judicial killings; routine torture and rape of detainees; crimes against humanity committed by Ethiopian forces in the Somali region and in Gambella, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region; discriminatory distribution of state assistance, including internationally-funded aid; forced relocation of farmers and pastoralists for the benefit of local and foreign investors; restriction on the activities of civil society, and surveillance and harassment of refugees in the diaspora.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw unconditional political and financial support to the Ethiopian Government and to exert effective diplomatic pressure on the Ethiopian Government to: release or subject to fair trial by independent judiciary all political detainees; investigate and punish those responsible for the killing, torture and rape of perceived political opponents, and repeal or amend the Charities and Societies Proclamation and take positive steps to encourage independent civil society, democratic pluralism and a culture of respect for human rights in Ethiopia.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Malcolm Bruce.]*

[P000950]

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Bus Service (Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth

That the decision by Stagecoach bus company to eliminate most the bus services between Little Harrowden and Wellingborough due to cut backs in subsidy from Northamptonshire County Council has led to considerable hardship to the old, disabled, vulnerable and young in isolating the village from Wellingborough and necessitating a difficult and dangerous walk along a busy and partly unlit road.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Transport to liaise with Northamptonshire County Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough to find a resolution that will lead to the Number 24 bus service being re-established between Little Harrowden and Wellingborough.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 8 June 2011; Vol. 529, c. 246.]

[P000925]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government continue to provide significant funds for local bus services, in Northamptonshire and elsewhere, through bus subsidy for operators and via the national concessionary travel entitlement, which was protected in the Budget. However, it is not the role of central Government to determine which non-commercial bus services should be supported by local transport authorities. These are decisions which must be made locally, in consultation with the public.

I recognise that local councils are making difficult decisions in the light of reductions in revenue support from central Government, but they have almost total discretion about which services to value when budgeting for the future. Certain councils, such as East Riding of Yorkshire Council, have taken the decision to protect bus services and to make efficiencies elsewhere instead.

In many areas, community transport can play a valuable role in preventing isolation among the young, elderly and disabled. I therefore strongly encourage local councils to work in partnership with operators and local communities to examine how more flexible services might be provided. To facilitate this, my Department recently announced a £10 million fund for community transport in rural areas. Northamptonshire County Council has received a £209,995 share of this fund, as well as six days of consultancy resource from the Community Transport Association.

Ian Faletto

The Humble Petition of Revd Alex Russell, Vicar of Pennington,

Sheweth that a great injustice has been done by the dismissal of Ian Faletto Stationmaster at Lymington.

Wherefore your Petitioner prays that your Honourable House calls upon the Government to request that South West Trains reconsider their decision in the light of his many years of exemplary service to the public

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr Desmond Swayne, Official Report,* 5 July 2011; Vol. 530, c. 1480.]

[P000928]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

South West Trains has confirmed to the Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for rail performance and to officials that, following a full and thorough investigation, a South West Trains employee was dismissed for a serious breach of safety. This decision was also upheld at an appeal hearing. The information surrounding this dismissal is confidential and South West Trains is unable to discuss detailed matters involving specific individuals. This matter is entirely for South West Trains to manage and it would be inappropriate for the Secretary of State for Transport to intervene in such employment matters.

TREASURY

Barnett Formula

The Petition of residents of Daventry.

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the use of the Barnett Formula in the distribution of Government funds should be replaced with an equal per capita distribution for all races in the United Kingdom; notes that the Petitioners believe it to be iniquitous that some parts of the United Kingdom are discriminated against because of race; and further notes that the Petitioners consider that it is wrong to permit such discrimination to be exempted in law.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to discontinue the use of the Barnett Formula in the distribution of Government funds and replace it with an equal per capita distribution for all races in the United Kingdom.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Heaton-Harris, Official Report,* 7 July 2011; Vol. 530, c. 1756.]

[P000935]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government thank the residents of Daventry for their petition on the use of the Barnett formula.

The Treasury is responsible for the devolved funding arrangements. The details are set out in the Statement of Funding Policy, which was updated in October 2010.

The Government note that the Petitioners request that the House of Commons urges the Government to discontinue the use of the Barnett Formula in the distribution of Government funds and replace it with an equal per capita distribution for all races in the United Kingdom.

The Barnett formula provides the devolved Administrations with a population-based share of comparable changes in spending of UK Government Departments. This ensures that each of the four countries has the same change in comparable spending per head.

The Government recognise the concerns expressed on the system of devolution funding. However, at this time, the priority must be to reduce the deficit and therefore any change to the system must await the stabilisation of the public finances.

Petitions

Wednesday 20 July 2011

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

EU Referendum

The Humble Petition of residents of Wolverhampton and others,

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners believe that the Government should allow the British people a referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your honourable House urges the Government to bring forward legislative proposals to allow the British people a referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Richard Shepherd.]*

[P000951]

Glass Bottles (Pubs and Clubs)

The Petition of residents of the United Kingdom,

Declares the Petitioners concern that glass bottles can cause serious harm to victims when used as a weapon.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward a law to stop the serving of glass bottles and glasses in pubs and clubs after 9pm.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sheryll Murray.]*

[P000952]

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Station (Wombourne, South Staffordshire)

The Petition of residents of the South Staffordshire constituency, and others,

Declares that the Police Station in Wombourne is being considered for closure; and further declares that Wombourne has a population of 14,000 who depend upon the service that it provides.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that the police station or a new alternative station is opened in the village of Wombourne to serve its residents and those in the local area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Gavin Williamson, Official Report,* 16 March 2011; Vol. 444, c. 525.]

[P000902]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

Decisions about the number, location and operation of police stations in a force area are matters for the Chief Constable in conjunction with the Police Authority. Police stations are assets of the local Police Authority; in future they will be assets of the elected Police and Crime Commissioners that the Government are introducing in each force area to give the public a greater voice in how they are policed and to replace bureaucratic control with democratic accountability.

The Government attach great importance to the accessibility of police services, but modern policing reaches people through many means, not just police stations. People may text or go online to contact the police rather than go to the traditional police station. There are other ways for the police to have a footprint or base in an area, for instance many forces have devised innovative ways of increasing their accessibility to the public through co-locating with councils or other local services, having shop fronts on a local parade, or holding surgeries in community buildings. These can provide opportunities for contact with far more people than those who would visit a police station.

In addition, better management and organisation can increase police availability to the public. For example, a recent report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary shows a very large variation in the visibility and availability of police officers to the public. Accordingly, despite decreasing central government funding, there is still considerable scope for forces to improve their service to the public—for example, through deploying officers via shift patterns which reflect the demand for service from the public.

The Government have provided the police with a challenging but manageable funding settlement, one which recognises that substantial savings can be made by transforming the way policing services are provided. Forces will need to rethink the way in which they deliver services for the public and consider the full range of options that are open to them in order to maintain and improve frontline services while making the necessary savings. The Government have a role to play in supporting forces, but the primary responsibility for making the necessary changes is local.

Petitions

Thursday 11 August 2011

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Access by Landlords

The Petition of a resident of Norwich,

Declares that at present there are no laws or guidelines to prevent landlords appearing outside tenants' homes or undertaking disruptive work at any hour; considers that landlords are in effect on tenants' premises when in the communal hallways of properties that have been divided into flats and bedsits; and further declares that this interferes with a tenant's "right to peacefully and privately enjoy", in accordance with the standard contract. The Petition also declares that, although working patterns vary, evenings and weekends should not be interrupted by landlords to enable tenants to enjoy privacy in their homes; noting that, as landlords often collect money for doing nothing, it is doubly unfair not to show respect for those to whom they have a duty of care as well as a business relationship.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to restrict landlords' access to their rented properties in the following ways: (1) other than in the case of an emergency, landlords and their agents should not be inside [or by] tenanted properties before 8 am and after 7 pm on weekdays; at weekends; or on bank holidays; (2) prospective tenants should only be shown around between 10 am and 8 pm, tenants would not be expected to comply with requests for viewings of their homes outside these hours; and (3) tenants must be notified of works to be carried out on adjoining properties, particularly in the case of flats in a single property.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000954]

Banking and Bankruptcy

The Petition of Elspeth Rushbrook,

Declares that the petitioner believes that the current rules regarding banking and bankruptcy need urgently revising; that since the downturn, there is very strong negative public feeling towards financial institutions; that there is much anger at the bonuses and that public money has bailed out highly paid bankers of a crisis which we are suffering and paying for in many senses, while banks create debts for private customers as well as the country as a whole.

Further declares that banks extract huge fees from thousands of personal customers for going only a little over a limit, and these fees have no cap; fees of up to £100 per month are taken automatically and there are cases where these have made those in hardship have four figure fees while investigations go on; that this can lead to loss of banking facilities and demands for further money from banks; that the High Court test case was a very drawn out way of looking at this issue, which is clearly deeply unbalanced; that the High Court decision was entirely in the bank's favour, and the furore around the unsuccessful case shows how strong popular feeling is about this matter; that banks make over £1 billion each year through these fees, on top of their other profits.

Further declares that bankruptcy laws have been tightened without public consultation or even widespread knowledge; most websites on debt do not mention changes to bankruptcy laws, including the Government's; in this time, debt has become very common; that debt is seen as bad but it is often the only way to improve circumstances, such as setting up business or paying for an education; that debt is also a result of materialism and consumerist society; that Government cuts, especially to legal aid and for medical treatment, make this worse.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that bankruptcy laws have been put in place by those who are well off; that the previous £50 free spending money a month was tight—but the current £10 for three years shows no understanding of modern life or poverty; that £10 per family member shows no understanding of single people and expects the burden and shame of bankruptcy to be spread across a whole household; and that for a person already under pressure, to not have any kind of relief asks for other problems, such as depression, as £10 a month means a single coffee a week, is not enough to buy a meal out, to allow you to leave your home town, to rent a DVD each week, for a television licence; that bankrupts may have to sell anything of value; that the law does not understand how things like DVD players, music and especially instruments, or computer games are vital; that whatever our financial circumstances, we all need a richer life, and after and during all the indignity and stress of debt, having pleasures and passions taken away is wrong and unfair; that being without a bank account is very hard in today's society—it is necessary to have one in order to receive benefits; that anything extra the insolvent earns during those three years goes to the creditor, meaning that doing better financially gives bankrupts no relief and no benefit; that insolvents are even asked to pay to become insolvent, and are publically shamed by having their bankruptcy published.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that our whole ethos is built up on a contractual debt, blame and punishment that enters into every part of our existence; banks and law unfairly control much of our society; the recurrence of recessions and other problems suggest that our current systems are not the way, and invite us to urgently look again—not try to continue much as before.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that one should not have to pay to declare oneself bankrupt; that bankruptcy should last and have effect for only one year; that there should be no public publication and shaming; that the allowable personal budget should return to £50 per month, and to rise appropriately with inflation; that bankruptcy should not affect members of a household or family, only the persons directly filing for it; that creditors should not be able to take extra moneys earned in this time; that there should be a system in place to allow bank accounts for bankrupts without further fees; that there should be no ban on public offices or other roles; that personal bankruptcy should not stop a self-employed business and vice versa;

that this is the livelihood and will mean no money for the person filing as bankrupt; that creditors should not be able to force borrowers into bankruptcy, particularly when the creditors have created the debt, such as with banking fees or aggressive lending.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that student loans of all kinds should be covered by bankruptcy; that the 2004 ban should be repealed as should the March 2011 legislation.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that having to attend a court hearing in respect of bankruptcy should be stopped—this is extra stress and cost (to attend) and quite often humiliation.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that information from debt advice centres should also be looked at, as many of these encourage insolvency as an easy way of freedom, and do not present the facts properly.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that the law should protect genuine people from large preying creditors without encouraging non-payment from reckless borrowers.

Further declares that bailiffs should be stopped immediately; that it is unsupportable to be harassed in your home for goods not related to the creditor's claims.

Further declares that banking fees should be abolished immediately; that such fees are not necessary, as they are only partly as a deterrent; that if one goes over one's account's limit, the account should simply not allow further withdrawals until further funds are put in; that banks should be banned immediately from following up fees with demands to further repay overdrafts; that where in the past, unreasonable fees have been charged and or hardship has been caused, these fees should be returned to customers.

Further declares that the blame, debt and contract system of our society needs to be revisited and debate begun and implemented about a fairer way forward.

The petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to urgently review these rules and the ethos behind them.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000955]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 11 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Contempt of Court: Internet

Mr Offord: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he will be taking to prevent the necessity of contempt of court cases being brought as a result of the use of social media networks. [65280]

The Solicitor-General: As guardians of the public interest, the Law Officers bring contempt of court proceedings when appropriate to do so. It is for the trial court judge to warn parties and the public not to publish prejudicial reports and, when appropriate, to impose reporting restrictions. Juries, in particular, are warned repeatedly by the court not to use the internet to research cases in which they are involved.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64435]

The Solicitor-General: Where appropriate, the Law Officers facilitate requests with hon. Members from all political parties. The Law Officers have occasionally to decline a meeting where they are asked to intervene in an individual case or provide legal advice to Members. Records of such requests are not maintained by the Department and the information requested could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Jessica Morden: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he is taking to monitor the effects of spending reductions on specialist support services for sexual and violent crimes provided by the Law Officers' Departments. [65419]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no responsibility for funding such services. Funding for specialist support services (such as sexual assault referral centres, independent sexual violence advisors, independent domestic violence advisors and rape crisis centres as well as Victim Support), is provided by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

The CPS does, however, value these services and will continue to work closely with the specialist support services to ensure that victims of sexual and violent crimes receive the best possible support.

Suicide Act 1961: Prosecutions

Mr Bain: To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the operation of the public interest factors tending *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against prosecution under the Suicide Act 1961. [64809]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General and I have not had any discussions with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on these matters.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) takes decisions on the public interest in cases of assisted suicide in accordance with the factors set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors (the Code) and the Policy for Prosecutors in respect of cases of Encouraging or Assisting Suicide, published on 25 February 2010.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Government Equalities Office received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63576]

Lynne Featherstone: Since its creation in October 2007, Government Equalities Office records indicate it received requests under the Freedom of Information Act as follows:

	Number
2007	0
2008	10
2009	67
2010	110
2011 (January-June)	35

Details of each requester can be located only by searching each individual case, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many contracts the Equality and Human Rights Commission has to procure consultancy support; how many staff are provided under each contract; and what the cost inclusive of VAT was of each contract in the last 12 months. [62204]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Commission procured the following six contracts to provide consultancy support over the last 12 months.

	Contract value inclusive of VAT (£)
Moorhouse Consulting Ltd	17,557.18
ACAS Northern Region	2,004.00
Cordis Bright Consultancy	10,910.40

	Contract value inclusive of VAT (£)
DWP	208.85
Government's Actuary Department	3,600.00
Veredus	19,087.97

No staff were provided under any of these contracts.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent discussions she has had with the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on political balance in the composition of its board of commissioners; and if she will make a statement. [61971]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 June 2011]*: The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not discussed this matter with the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. There is no statutory requirement to consider political balance in the appointment of EHRC Commissioners.

The consultation on the future of the EHRC has recently closed and the Government will publish their response in due course.

Equality: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between her and local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) on equality issues and LEP board nominations. [63950]

Lynne Featherstone: The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), wrote to local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) in April this year, encouraging them to consider equalities when making board appointments. There were two separate letters, one to those LEPs that had already been given approval for their boards and one to those still forming boards at that time. Replies have been received from Coast to Capital, Cheshire and Warrington and Solent LEPs. Copies of all these have been placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Hu Jia

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has made to his Chinese counterpart on the house arrest of environmental activist Hu Jia. [64369]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave during the press conference with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on 27 June 2011. A transcript of the press conference is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/06/press-conference-with-premier-wen-jiabao-65285

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Mr Denham: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he was informed of the outcome of the tender for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [64751]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1509.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64681]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since April 2010, no members of staff have been dismissed for under-performance as a result of procedures arising from the Northern Ireland Office's staff appraisal system.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many regulations (1) his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65312]

(2) that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65329]

(3) that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65346]

Mr Paterson: My Department introduced two sets of regulations in the period from 1 March to 1 September 2010. Neither of these regulations imposed costs on businesses. No regulations have been made since 1 September 2010.

The Northern Ireland Office has responsibilities chiefly in relation to constitutional, electoral and national security fields; they do not generally concern business regulation.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64423]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold the information requested; however, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I are always happy to discuss matters of importance to Scotland with hon. Members of all political parties.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Verification Sampling

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what steps the Electoral Commission plans to take to improve the consistency of verification sampling. [63436]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that in future they will be moving towards monitoring and assessing the quality of returns from all local authorities across Great Britain, without solely relying on the verification of a sample of returns. The commission intends to consult on revised standards for returning officers and monitoring in advance of elections, with a view to adopting this strategy for elections to be held in May 2012.

WALES

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees with disabilities in her Department are receiving support from the access to work programme; and what proportion of the work force of her Department this figure represents. [64391]

Mr David Jones: None of our staff have applied formally for support from the access to work programme but some disabled employees are receiving access to work support which the Department funds. We are unable to set out the numbers as this could breach confidentiality in a Department of this size.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts her Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62715]

Mr David Jones: None.

Electoral Systems

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what plans she has to propose a meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee to discuss the electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales; [64992]

(2) what plans she has to consult about any new electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales; and if she will make a statement; [64993]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Deputy Prime Minister about electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales; [64995]

(4) when she plans to meet the First Minister for Wales to discuss electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales; [64997]

(5) whether she has any plans to change the electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales. [64792]

Mrs Gillan: I have discussed the electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales with the First Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government will look carefully at the implications of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 for the Assembly's constituencies. Full discussions with political parties and other relevant organisations would be required to inform any proposals for change.

We are hoping to hold a meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee in Wales later in the year, which would provide an opportunity for such constitutional issues to be raised.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* effects and *(b)* benefits that the High Speed 2 project will have on Wales; [63956]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the benefits of High Speed 2 to Wales; [63957]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects on rail infrastructure in Wales of High Speed 2; [63958]

(4) what meetings she has had on High Speed 2. [63959]

Mr David Jones: Regular discussions with a range of interested parties, including Ministers in the Department for Transport, take place on issues that affect Wales, including rail infrastructure.

The Government are currently consulting on a new national high-speed rail network. This is part of a wider programme of modernisation of the rail network, including electrification of the Great Western main line to Cardiff. The consultation will consider a range of issues including potential benefits for Wales.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on 28 June 2011, *Official Record*, column 643W, to my hon. Friend the Member for South Northamptonshire (Andrea Leadsom).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the impact of the common agricultural policy on greenhouse gas emission abatement. [64543]

Mr Paice: Between now and the end of 2012, DEFRA will be reviewing the full range of policies and activities that have an impact on agricultural GHG emissions, including the common agricultural policy (CAP).

The Government are committed to ensuring that we have a thriving and sustainable farming sector in the UK and we are seeking ambitious reform of the CAP from 2014. We continue to place a strong emphasis on the role that CAP should play in improving environmental outcomes, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has received any advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers on a badger cull; and if she will publish any such advice. [64203]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) and DEFRA officials have received advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers. This advice has related to public order and safety, domestic extremism, wildlife crime and firearms licensing. As policy is still under development the advice will not be made publicly available at this stage.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62725]

Richard Benyon: The following table identifies contracts with organisations that are part of the Capita group of companies and shows the monetary value of each contract. The expenditure on ea[illegible] contract is the same as the value.

Department/agency	*Supplier*	*Number of contracts*	*Contract value (£)*	*Detail*
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	Capita Resourcing Ltd	1	12,469.20	Services to assist selection of non-statutory members of inshore fisheries and conservation authorities
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency	Capita IB Solutions (UK)	2	65,000.00 29,821.00	Support of Integra accounting system Annual licence for software maintenance
Food and Environment Research Agency	Veredus Capita	2	175,000,00 607.68	Interim services Resourcing Workshop
Rural Payment Agency		0		
Veterinary Medicines Directorate		0		
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science		0		

Dairy Farming

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dairy farms there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire (i) in 2001 and (ii) in the latest period for which figures are available. [63268]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The number of dairy farms in England and Northamptonshire for 2001 and 2010 is shown in the following table. Also shown is the number of dairy cattle on dairy holdings for England and Northamptonshire, along with UK milk production and milk yields to put the figures into context.

The long-term trend in dairy production is towards fewer, larger and more productive herds. The following table shows how the decline in the number of dairy cows has been offset by an increase in average herd size and milk yields. So while the number of dairy cows in England has fallen by 22% between 2001 and 2010, the level of milk production (at the UK level) has fallen only by 5%.

	Number of dairy farms		*Number of dairy cattle (on dairy holdings)*			
	England	*Northants*	*England*	*Northants*	*UK milk production (million litres)*[1]	*Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)*
2001[2, 3]	14,045	57	1,252,687	5,751	14,284	6,346

	Number of dairy farms		Number of dairy cattle (on dairy holdings)			
	England	Northants	England	Northants	UK milk production (million litres)[1]	Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)
2010[4]	9,351	40	1,143,795	4,125	13,533	7,301

[1] Source: DEFRA and RPA statistics.

[2] Sourced from June Survey. Defined as the number of holdings with dairy as the predominant farming activity.

[3] Thresholds have been applied to the 2001 data to make them comparable with the 2010 data which represent only commercial holdings.

[4] Sourced from CTS. Defined as the number of holdings from CTS with >10 2+dairy cows in the milking herd (i.e. with offspring).

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many milk producers have left the dairy farming industry in each year since 2000. [64580]

Mr Paice: The following table gives the number of milk producers in the UK in June of each year since 2000 as well as the net number of producers that left the industry since the previous June. Figures for June 2011 are not yet available.

	Producer numbers	Net loss since previous June
2000	28,422	1,799
2001	26,556	1,866
2002	24,930	1,626
2003	22,992	1,938
2004	21,616	1,376
2005	20,313	1,303
2006	19,011	1,302
2007	17,915	1,096
2008	17,060	855
2009	16,404	656
2010	15,716	688

Source: DairyCo
http://www.dairyco.net/library/market-information/datum/producer-numbers.aspx

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by her Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63564]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not currently distinguish SMEs when measuring performance on paying invoices within five working days.

The performance of the Department and its executive agencies for payments to all suppliers for the financial year 2010-11 is shown in the following table:

Within five days average full year	*Percentage*
DEFRA	66.3
FERA	75.6
VMD	83.4
CEFAS	53.3
RPA	97.9
AH	96.1
VLA	75.1

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63327]

Richard Benyon: As part of its commitment to reducing carbon emissions on its estate, DEFRA has introduced technologies which generate low carbon energy at sites in Alnwick and Weybridge.

There are no current plans to supplement this programme.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistical data her Department has ceased to collect in the last year; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63670]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has stopped the following key regular collections in the last year:

	Reason	*Estimated cost savings (£000)*
Earnings and hours of agricultural workers	Survey suspended given intention to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board	30

The design of collections, content and publications changes as we review the information needed and seek out more efficient approaches.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 her Department is responsible; and what European directives for which her Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60691]

Richard Benyon: The stock of EU legislation in force is set out in:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would be of disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation are currently the responsibility of DEFRA.

There are a number of directives which have come into force since 1 April 2010 for which my Department has responsibility and I will write separately providing a detailed list.

Floods: Pickering

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will use her power of variation of the 10,000 cubic metre threshold under *(a)* the Reservoir Act 1975 or *(b)* guidance issued pursuant to that Act in relation to the Pickering Flood Defence Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [63443]

Richard Benyon: The provisions in the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act that amend the Reservoirs Act 1975, including the changes to the volume threshold for large raised reservoirs, have yet to be formally commenced. Once commenced, the threshold will be reduced from 25,000 to 10,000 cubic metres, with a power for the Minister to substitute a different volume.

We are currently considering the way forward on the Pickering flood defence scheme, including the extent to which the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the related guidance may provide workable and affordable solutions.

Forestry Commission: Redundancy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North (Ann McKechin) of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 245W, on the Forestry Commission: redundancy, if she will make it her policy to put on hold the decision to reduce the Forestry Commission spending settlement pending the outcome of the work of the Independent Panel on Forestry on the future of the public forest estate; what information she has sought from the public and representative organisations on the decision to reduce the Forestry Commission settlement; and when working with the Forestry Commission on delivery of key outcomes, what methods were used to assess the impact on *(a)* biodiversity, *(b)* recreation and *(c)* education of the proposal to reduce the Forestry Commission settlement. [64853]

Mr Paice: The Government have no plans to put on hold the spending review allocation to the Forestry Commission. In deciding the budget allocations for DEFRA and its arm's length bodies, Ministers took account of spending priorities and the contribution of individual arm's length bodies to achieving key outcomes for the Department. The Forestry Commission continues to recognise that it may need to adapt its spending review plans following the Government's response to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Forestry, and has structured its plans in such a way that this flexibility can be achieved.

Forests

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1083, what arrangements have been made for the chairing of meetings of the Independent Panel on Forestry on the future of the public forest estate in the absence of the chair; whether she expects the panel to report in November 2011; and if she will make a statement. [64971]

Mr Paice: The independent panel's findings and advice will be presented to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in a final report in spring 2012. The panel has a planned work programme for the summer and will make its own administrative arrangements about meetings or events in the chair's absence. Further details of this are available on the panel's webpage on the DEFRA website.

Land: Contamination

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to complete the review of contaminated land regime. [64236]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is currently finalising revisions to the contaminated land regime and expects to lay the revised statutory guidance and amendments to the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 in Parliament in the autumn.

Livestock

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to improve available information on livestock productivity. [64533]

Mr Paice: A range of UK livestock production statistics are published annually in chapter 5 of the 'Agriculture in the United Kingdom' publication. These include average carcase weights, average milk yields and meat production and breeding herd statistics. These can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-crosscutting-auk-2010-chapter05-commodities-livestock-110623.xls

Detailed information on farm level performance is collected through the Farm Business Survey. Results are published annually, including a breakdown by the various livestock farm types, in Farm Accounts in England and can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/farmaccounts/

The Farm Business Survey is continually assessed to ensure the relevance and quality of the data. Over recent years this has included collecting information on farm management practices to understand how these link to farm performance.

Statistics related to climate change mitigation are currently being compiled and are due to be published later this month on the DEFRA website. These will include a range of indicators of livestock productivity including breeding herd longevity and fertility, mortality and feed conversion.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for delivery of product road maps in all livestock sectors; and if she will make a statement. [64703]

Mr Paice: The Government are working closely with the dairy, beef and sheep, and pig meat sectors as they manage the delivery of the programmes for sustainability set out in their product roadmaps.

The future targets for 2015 and 2020 set out in the recently published Dairy Roadmap can be found starting at page 36 at:

http://www.dairyco.net/library/research-development/environment/dairy-roadmap.aspx

The two parts of the product roadmap for beef and sheep published in November 2009 and December 2010 respectively can be found at:

http://www.eblex.org.uk/publications/corporate.aspx

Part one highlights the challenges the sector faces in reducing greenhouse gases and sets out targets for emissions improvements and the main opportunities for efficiency improvements to deliver these. Part two includes updates on plans to monitor progress towards the targets previously set out.

The English pig meat roadmap published this spring can be found at:

http://www.bpex.org.uk/Article.aspx?ID=301329

2020 targets are set out in the box on page 6, while key performance indicators for pig producers for 2014 and 2020 are included on page 13.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of trends in levels of livestock production in each of the last four years. [64741]

Mr Paice: Levels of UK livestock production are published annually in the DEFRA publication "Agriculture in the United Kingdom". The latest publication dated May 2011 is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/cross-cutting/auk/

UK livestock production in each of the last four years is shown in Table 1. Meat production is in carcase weight equivalent.

Table 1: UK livestock production

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Beef and veal (thousand tonnes)	888	866	823	898
Mutton and lamb (thousand tonnes)	329	332	313	287
Pig meat (thousand tonnes)	707	706	681	712
Poultry meat (thousand tonnes)	1,464	1,462	1,457	1,573
Milk (million litres)	13,626	13,326	13,204	13,540
Eggs (million dozen)	720	754	751	826

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2010, DEFRA.

Information on UK production and overseas trade is brought together in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" to show the total UK supply of livestock products (in carcase weight equivalent for meat). Possible uses include food manufacturing, catering, household purchases and pet food. Note that the household consumption figures given in reply to the recent question on consumption of beef, land and poultry are part of this picture and are given in product weight rather than carcase weight equivalent. The tables in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" should be used if comparing production with overall supply to consider trends in self sufficiency.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate how much *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb and *(c)* poultry was consumed in the UK in each of the last four years. [64463]

Mr Paice: Quantities of beef, lamb and poultry purchased for UK household supplies are sourced from the 'Expenditure and Food Survey' for years 2006 and 2007 'Living Costs and Food Survey' from 2008 onwards. The 2010 data are currently unavailable but will be published in November 2011.

The data collected relate to purchases and not consumption. Consumption data are not collected. It is assumed that all purchases are consumed. Purchases of non-carcase meat and meat products such as sausages, pies, and meat-based ready meals are excluded. 'Eating out' purchases are also excluded as it is not possible to identify quantities of beef, lamb and poultry within the 'eating out' data.

UK household purchases of beef, lamb and poultry

Thousand tonnes per year

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Beef	390	391	351	354
Lamb	161	170	137	147
Poultry	632	645	653	648

Sheep: Tuberculosis

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will reverse her policy not to pay compensation for the compulsory slaughter of sheep with tuberculosis. [62750]

Mr Paice: There is no statutory compensation payment for sheep slaughtered because they are suspected of being TB-infected. Currently, the Government have no plans to review this policy.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department has given to Arts Council England in its reform of the way regular funding is invested in arts organisations to ensure a more strategic approach. [63535]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Individual arts funding decisions are taken at arm's length from Government, and the decision to reform the system of regular funding was made independently by Arts Council England.

Officials in my Department worked with Arts Council England throughout the development and delivery of the new National Portfolio system.

Broadband

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of the UK population which will have access to *(a)* conventional fixed, *(b)* superfast, *(c)* wireless and *(d)* satellite broadband services by 2015. [65003]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, with 90% of all premises having access to superfast broadband and there being a fibre connection in virtually every community and with access to a minimum 2Mbps connection for all premises. The Government will take a technology-neutral approach in achieving this objective.

Cultural Heritage

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to help preserve heritage sites in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London. [63888]

John Penrose: In 2009-10, English Heritage gave £2.4 million in grant aid to Greater London. This included the final payments for the major restoration and conservation of the grade I listed Crossness Pumping Station at Belvedere. English Heritage also works closely with Bexley council and the Bexley Heritage Trust to ensure the continued success of Danson House and Hall Place.

English Heritage has recently launched the National Heritage Protection Plan, which sets out why, what and how England's vulnerable historic environment is to be safeguarded in the next four years. Developed in consultation with a wide range of partners, it shows where the threats are the greatest and will help English Heritage to prioritise its work. It will also help other heritage professionals and volunteers to contribute to the business of managing England's heritage. This Department and English Heritage are also considering various measures to tackle the problem of buildings which have been on the Heritage at risk register for an extended period of time. In this respect, Danson House and Crossness are prime examples of what can be achieved.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62078]

John Penrose: Since June 2010 there has been £90 of expenses claimed by the special advisers employed by the Department. There are no unpaid special advisers working in the Department.

Glasgow Commonwealth Games: Executives

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers regarding the chief executive of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. [65491]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has had no discussions with Scottish Ministers regarding the chief executive of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games.

Holiday Accommodation: Energy Performance Certificates

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what representations he has received from the domestic tourism industry opposing the introduction of the requirement for some holiday properties to obtain energy performance certificates; [64442]

(2) whether and on how many occasions he has met ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss the requirement for some holiday properties to obtain energy performance certificates. [64443]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A number of tourism trade bodies and businesses have raised concerns with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and also responded to the Government's Red Tape Challenge consultation about the impact of introducing energy performance certificates (EPCs) on the self-catering sector. Policy responsibility for this matter rests with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). I have not met with CLG to discuss this issue, but the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose) wrote to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Planning, my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 4 April about certification process for holiday properties.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he made of the effect on competition between providers of holiday accommodation of requirements for some holiday properties to obtain energy performance certificates. [64444]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department published an impact assessment which estimated the likely costs and benefits of requiring certain properties rented out as a holiday let to have an Energy Performance Certificate. It was determined that requiring holiday lets to obtain Energy Performance Certificates would not produce any competition issues.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made for the ratio of applications to available tickets for the London 2012 Olympics. [63395]

Mr Vaizey: In the first round of sales, 1.9 million applications were made for 22 million Olympic tickets. 75% of tickets—6.6 million—are being made available through the UK application process. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) will do everything it can to get those that were unsuccessful in the first round, to the games.

Public Appointments: Females

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of those holding public appointments in his Department's public bodies which were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Prime Minister, *(c)* the Crown and *(d)* the bodies concerned are women. [64632]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As at 31 March 2011, of the total 505 current public appointments to the Department's arm's length bodies, 182 (36%) were women. 416 public appointments were made either by departmental Ministers, the Prime Minister or HM the Queen, on the recommendation of Ministers, of which 161 (39%) were women.

Details of the public appointments made in the manner that the right hon. Lady have requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the Department's individual public appointments is published on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/public_appointments/1006.aspx

Royal Parks Agency: Demonstrations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what grounds the Royal Parks Agency can decline to approve a public demonstration; and if he will make a statement. [64819]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks has a long tradition of accommodating public demonstrations and has policies and procedures for managing them. Under the Royal Parks Regulations 4 (17) those who wish to

> "organise or take part in any assembly, display, performance, representation, parade, procession, review or theatrical event"

must get written permission.

TREASURY

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disabled employees of his Department are receiving support from the Access to Work programme; and what proportion of the workforce of his Department this figure represents. [64394]

Justine Greening: None of the HM Treasury staff with disabilities who currently receive support for reasonable adjustments to their working environment are in receipt of additional funding from the Jobcentre Plus Access to Work scheme.

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of inbound tourists of planned increases in the rate of air passenger duty in 2012; [65175]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of air passenger duty on the number of tourists visiting the UK; [65176]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of foreign direct investment of rates of air passenger duty. [65177]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 424W.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* mechanism for any sale of shares in banks in which UK Financial Investments manages the stake owned by the Government. [64737]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions at an arm's length and commercial basis. UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

UKFI will look at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and will make recommendations based on market conditions, on an assessment of investor demand, and on value for money considerations at the time when considering a transaction. Because any decision needs to be taken in the context of changing economic and market conditions, UKFI does not think it is possible to or desirable to state hard goals such as price or time that would determine when the Government's interests will be sold.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on returns to the public purse from the amounts invested in banks in which UK Financial Investments manages the stake owned by the Government. [64739]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions on an arm's length and commercial basis.

UKFI's remit is to devise and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in an orderly and active way, in line with its overarching objective to create and protect value for the taxpayer as shareholder.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), launched the Northern Rock sales process on 15 June in his speech at Mansion House. At this stage all viable options remain available for further consideration; however a sale is being explored as the first option.

The Office for National Statistics will decide how to account for the proceeds in the public finances of any share sale taking into account the precise nature of the transaction. How any proceeds resulting from a sale will be determined as part of the normal annual Budget process.

Business: Credit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the adequacy of the credit facilities given by banks to small and medium-sized enterprises to promote company growth and development; and if he will make a statement. [64513]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February 2011 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

The Merlin banks loaned a total of £47.3 billion to UK businesses in the first quarter of 2011, including £16.8 billion to SMEs. The Government are encouraged that the banks are broadly on target to meet their overall commitment. However, it is disappointing that the banks are behind schedule on lending to SMEs. As the Chancellor made clear in his Mansion House speech on 15 June, the Government will use all tools available to them to ensure that the banks live up to their promises.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many letters to *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* the Permanent Secretary for Tax at HM Revenue and Customs, a reply was sent (i) in under one month, (ii) between one and three months and (iii) more than three months from the date of receipt in the last 12 months. [57980]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The information requested is in the following table, for the 12 months to May 2011:

			Number of letters
	Within a month	*Between 1 and 3 months*	*More than 3 months*
HMT ministerial	7,780	6,803	1,403
HMRC senior officials on behalf of the Exchequer Secretary	1,176	562	18
HMRC senior officials	5,296	1,182	71
Grand total	14,252	8,547	1,492

The HMRC database does not differentiate between correspondence received by the Permanent Secretary of HMRC, Permanent Secretary for Tax and the Chairman of HMRC. These senior HMRC officials also respond to letters sent to the Exchequer Secretary which relate to operational and taxpayer-specific matters.

Correspondence has been at record levels following the general election, the two Budgets, the spending review and the autumn forecast. The Departments are working as quickly as possible to reply to all outstanding correspondence and make their processes more robust.

Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63591]

Justine Greening: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual reports on the volume, timeliness and outcomes of information requests received by over 40 Government Departments. Reports covering the years to 2010 are published on the MOJ website and are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Treasury does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. Where requestors have made clear that they are MPs we are able to provide the following data, although these may not represent all Freedom of Information requests from MPs.

The total numbers of requests in the period in question are:

2005: 1,208
2006: 1,228
2007: 1,092
2008: 1,418
2009: 1,451
2010: 2,064.

Of these requests, the numbers of recorded requests from MPs are:

2005: 67
2006: 80
2007: 45
2008: 55
2009: 52
2010: 99.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64419]

Justine Greening: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation: EU Countries

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of the Government's exposure to the debts of the governments of *(a)* Portugal, *(b)* Greece, *(c)* Ireland and *(d)* Spain in each financial year since 2005-06. [64584]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not normally disclose details of their individual exposures.

Regarding exposures through the existing, packages of international financial assistance to Greece, Ireland and Portugal, I refer the hon. Gentleman to my recent written answer to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 545-46W.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on inflation of his decision not to proceed with planned fuel duty rises. [65390]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The effects on inflation of the changes to fuel duty are included in their latest forecast.

Financial Conduct Authority

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress there has been in the creation of the Financial Conduct Authority. [64733]

Mr Hoban: The Government published a White Paper, "A new approach to financial regulation: the blueprint for reform", on 16 June. This document sets out the Government's detailed proposals for the creation of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the context of wider reform of financial regulation. The White Paper includes draft legislation and explanatory notes.

On 27 June, the Financial Services Authority published the document "The Financial Conduct Authority: approach to regulation" to consult on the detail of the FCA's regulatory approach.

Financial Policy Committee

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent members of staff are to support the Statutory Financial Policy Committee; and what proportion of such staff will *(a)* be staff of the (i) Financial Services Authority and (ii) Bank of England and *(b)* be newly recruited. [64213]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Policy Committee will have at its disposal analytical resources across several Bank directorates, in particular: Financial Stability; Markets; and, to the extent that it is relevant, Monetary Policy. A new FPC secretariat, which sits within Financial Stability directorate, has been established to coordinate analytical and process support arrangements for the FPC. Its budget is 6.5 full-time equivalent staff.

FSA staff also play a key role in briefing FPC members and implementing policy actions on behalf of the FPC.

Financial Services: Regulation

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget of the *(a)* Statutory Financial Policy Committee, *(b)* Prudential Regulation Authority and *(c)* Financial Conduct Authority will be in their first year of operation. [64212]

Mr Hoban: Budgets for the first year of operation of the Financial Policy Committee (FPC), the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have not yet been set.

The annual budgets of the new regulatory authorities will be determined independently of Government. Detailed budgeting decisions and plans for the first year of operation of the FPC, PRA and FCA will be made by the Bank of England and the FSA as part of the programme to establish the new regulators.

Freezing Orders: Syria

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who amongst those persons who have had their assets frozen under the Syria (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 (S.I., 2011, No. 1244) was classified as a politically-exposed person before the beginning of operations in Libya. [63920]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Government do not maintain a list of politically-exposed persons (PEPs).

Rather, it is for financial institutions to determine whether or not someone is a PEP, drawing on the definitions set out in the UK's Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and the global standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and taking account of available information about individuals' positions and activities.

Given the definition of PEPs, the Treasury expects that regulated businesses will have identified many of those subject to the Syria (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 as PEPs and to have treated them accordingly.

It should be noted that identifying someone as a PEP does not automatically mean that financial institutions are unable to do business with that person. Rather it requires them to undertake enhanced due diligence before starting a business relationship and on an ongoing basis thereafter. Businesses must not start a relationship with a new customer unless they can satisfy themselves of the legitimacy of the customer, their funds and source of wealth.

Gift Aid

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with service charities on participation in the Gift Aid scheme. [65143]

Justine Greening: Officials hold frequent discussions with charities and representative bodies of charities, for example through the HMRC Charity Tax Forum. The agendas and minutes of the Charity Tax Forum are published on the HMRC website and can be found through this link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/charities-tax.htm

Gold: EU Countries

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he has taken of the monetary value of gold reserves held by other EU member states in reaching decisions on financial assistance to those countries. [64965]

Justine Greening: The financial assistance packages received by EU member states were multilateral assistance packages, co-ordinated by the IMF and the European Commission. The IMF routinely takes into account the level of international reserves when assessing member requests for financial assistance.

Housing

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the receipts the Exchequer will receive from local authorities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland as a result of the housing revenue account subsidy scheme in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2013-14. [64975]

Mr Gauke: The Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system operates only in England and Wales. The receipts in respect of England are a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government, and in Wales it is a matter for the Welsh Government.

Job Creation

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of new jobs likely to be created in the economy in each of the next three years which are *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time. [64877]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released the official forecast for whole economy employment to 2015 as part of the March 2011 "Economic and Fiscal Outlook".

The OBR expects total employment to increase by around 900,000 between 2010 and 2015.

The OBR has not published forecasts split by part-time and full-time employment.

There were 29.24 million people in employment in the three months to April 2011, up 376,000 over the year. Of this increase, 198,000 were full-time workers.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 21 April and 25 May 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding Mr G. Dixon. [64345]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* HM Treasury has no record of having received letters from my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon and Billericay of 21 April and 25 May 2011 regarding Mr G. Dixon. I have asked my officials to contact my hon. Friend's office to obtain copies.

Money: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on money: counterfeit manufacturing, how many counterfeit coins were removed from circulation in the last year. [64711]

Justine Greening: 1,845,766 counterfeit £1 coins were removed from circulation and returned to the Royal Mint in 2010-11.

Taxation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of adopting the approach to tax deferments practised by the previous Administration. [64516]

Mr Gauke: Since its launch in November 2008 to the end of March 2011, HMRC's Business Payment Support Service has agreed some 428,800 arrangements involving £7.37 billion of tax. £6.31 billion has already been paid to HMRC from mature arrangements.

However, its launch did not, and does not, affect HMRC's underlying policy or approach to time to pay which has not changed.

HMRC continues to offer a sympathetic ear to businesses—and individuals—in temporary financial difficulty and we will continue to offer the BPSS as part of their time to pay arrangements for as long as it is needed.

Taxation: Financial Services

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress his Department has made in international discussions about the development of a financial activities tax. [64942]

Mr Hoban: The Government are continuing to explore the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax with international partners. As requested by ECOFIN, the European Commission is currently preparing an impact assessment on financial sector taxation, including financial activities taxes.

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the projected income from the supplementary charge on the oil and gas industry in the next two financial years. [64937]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated July 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The information that you have requested has not previously been published by the OBR. In line with our release policy, the OBR aims to meet ongoing requests for supplementary forecast information where this will improve the quality of public debate on the public finances. Our release policy is available on our website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/release_policy.pdf

Where the OBR publishes supplementary material, releases will be made in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to information. The next scheduled release date for the publication of supplementary forecast information is 21 July 2011.

Taxation: Voluntary Work

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in relation to tax concessions to encourage volunteering; and if he will make a statement. [65434]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

UK Asset Resolution

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the salary was of the chief executive of UK Asset Resolution Ltd in 2010-11; and what his salary is for 2011-12. [64756]

Mr Hoban: UK Asset Resolution (UKAR) Ltd was established on 1 October 2010 as the holding company for Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc and Bradford and Bingley plc.

Richard Banks is the chief executive of UKAR. As detailed in the annual reports of Northern Rock (Asset Management) and Bradford and Bingley, his salary is £340,000 per annum.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the chief executive of UK Asset Resolution Ltd received in total remuneration including any bonuses in 2010-11; and how much he will receive in 2011-12. [64757]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in financial institutions at an arm's length and commercial basis. UK Asset Resolution has an incentive scheme in place which has been agreed with UKFI and is aligned to corporate and individual performance.

UK Asset Resolution was established on 1 October 2010. Details of the remuneration arrangements for UKAR's chief executive, Richard Banks, include details of remuneration arrangements for his previous post as chief executive of Bradford and Bingley plc. The arrangements were detailed in the Bradford and Bingley plc and Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc annual reports for 2010 and are as follows:

Directors' emoluments for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

£

	Basic salary/ fees[1]	*Noncash benefits*	*Allowances*	*Payment in lieu of pension*	*Bonus*[2]	*Total emoluments 2010*
Richard Banks	275,500	1,061	22,800	82,650	170,000	552,011

[1] The only element of pay that pension is calculated on.

[2] Payment is subject to deferral and clawback as outlined in the Bradford and Bingley and Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc annual reports.

Note:

As MD of B and B, Richard Banks was entitled to receive an annual bonus award which was capped upon his appointment at a maximum of £30,000 for 2009.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed by UK Asset Resolution Ltd at each grade on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the pay scale was of each such grade. [64758]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis. UKFI's overarching objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition. Details on employee issues are a matter for the boards of individual banks. The most recent figures published by UK Asset Resolution (UKAR) in the Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc and Bradford and Bingley plc 2010 annual reports stated that the company employed 2,400 people at year end.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much UK Asset Resolution Ltd has spent on each external consultancy contract since its creation; [64759]

(2) how much UK Asset Resolution Ltd has spent on hospitality for each category of cost since the body's creation; [64760]

(3) how much UK Asset Resolution Ltd has spent on travel under each category of cost since the body's creation. [64728]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis. UKFI's overarching objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

The board of UK Asset Resolution is responsible for ensuring that financial and human resources are in place for the company to deliver its business plan as agreed with UKFI. Decisions on consultancy contracts, hospitality and travel are therefore the responsibility of the board of UK Asset Resolution.

Unemployment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of trends in the rate of unemployment. [60519]

Justine Greening: The unemployment rate has fallen recently. In the latest data, it was at 7.7%, down from 7.9% on the quarter.

Consistent with the Office of Budget Responsibility's March 2011 forecast, unemployment is expected to fall in the medium-term as the economy recovers, supported by action taken by the Government, including the measures published in the Budget and the Plan for Growth.

VAT: Sun Cream

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of removing VAT from sun cream. [64765]

Mr Gauke: No recent estimate has been made to assess the cost of removing VAT from sun cream.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the reclassification of sun cream as an essential health product. [64766]

Mr Gauke: Neither HM Treasury nor HM Revenue and Customs have considered reclassifying sun cream as an essential health product.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding the removal of VAT on sun cream. [64767]

Mr Gauke: No representations have been received regarding the removal of VAT on sun cream.

Waste Disposal

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of fiscal measures to increasing producer responsibility for waste. [64359]

Justine Greening: Recycling targets for packaging waste, to be met by businesses which place packaging on the market, are delivered through existing fiscal instruments—the packaging recovery notes (PRNs) and packaging export recovery notes (PERNs). Recovery and recycling targets and 2010 performance are:

Material	*Targets* 2011	2012	*Percentage Performance* 2010
Paper/card	69.5	69.5	81.9
Glass	81	81	60.7
Aluminium	40	40	40.9
Steel	71	71	59.3
Plastic	32	32	24.1
Wood	22	22	75.4

The Government are committed to consulting on increased recovery and recycling targets for packaging waste, in time for a final decision at Budget 2012.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people in his Department are being supported in employment under its access to work programme; and what proportion of his Department's staff this represents. [65085]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions does not use the access to work programme to provide assistance to its disabled employees and as such none of its employees should receive support from the access to work programme.

Instead DWP provides the funding for support and adjustments for its disabled staff including those working in its agencies, for example Jobcentre Plus.

DWP, as one of the largest Government Departments, made a decision in 2003 (in agreement with Ministers) that it would meet the cost of support and adjustments needed by disabled colleagues, rather than draw on the limited access to work programme. Potentially, this means more funding for smaller employers who are more likely to be concerned about the cost of adjustments.

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of households with child care costs per week in excess of *(a)* £125 for one child or £210 for two or more children and *(b)* £100 for one child or £150 for two or more children. [63810]

Maria Miller: The information is not available for all households, since there is no one source which provides comprehensive and universal child care costs. Child care costs are also highly variable.

In estimating current child care costs there are a number of different sources: the most relevant of which is administrative data for the child care element of working tax credits (see details following) but this does not give a complete picture as it does not cover all households. There is a survey of parents conducted for the Department for Education in England, but it does not allow us to accurately estimate the numbers of households with weekly child care costs over these amounts.[1] No administrative data are collected for the other two main potential sources of information, which are those receiving employer-supported child care, and those whose child care expenditure is disregarded in housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Administrative data show that 493,000 households were in receipt of child care element of working tax credits in the United Kingdom at April 2011. Of these households:

49,000 had one child and reported child care costs of over £125 per week;

28,000 had two or more children and reported child care costs of over £210 per week;

73,000 had one child and reported child care costs of over £100 per week;

65,000 had two or more children and reported child care costs of over £150 per week.[2]

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department calculates its estimates of rates of additional take-up of assistance with child care costs under the proposed universal credit. [63812]

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[1] Smith R. et al (2010) Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2009, Department for Education RR054.

[2] The figures are consistent with the latest tax credits provisional statistics for April 2011 which can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-apr11.pdf

Chris Grayling: Universal credit modelling is conducted using the Department's policy simulation model. This is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels.

The modelling is adjusted to take account of imperfect take-up using microsimulation techniques. This is important as we expect take-up of entitlements to rise under universal credit due to the increased simplicity and integrated nature of the new benefit.

A number of assumptions are made about the extent to which take-up will rise in universal credit as a whole. The key assumptions being that those currently taking up some but not all of their entitlements will take-up all of the universal credit, while around half of those not taking up any of their current entitlements do so under the new system. We assume that in some cases take-up will remain unchanged, for example those people whom we consider are currently not satisfying the requirements of the conditionality regime.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of working households with childcare costs who would be worse off in their current employment compared to being out of work, accounting for their in-work costs and excluding any transitional protection *(a)* under the options he is considering for childcare costs under the universal credit and *(b)* if a childcare element covering 80 per cent. of childcare costs up to £175 for one child and £300 for two or more children was introduced within the universal credit. [63813]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Universal credit modelling is conducted using the Department's Policy Simulation Model. This is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS), uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels.

The FRS 2008-09 does not collect information on in-work costs, such as travel to work costs, and therefore this information cannot be included in our universal credit modelling.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many families will have their entitlements to support with childcare costs *(a)* increased and *(b)* reduced after the full implementation of the universal credit; [63814]

(2) how many households will be *(a)* better and *(b)* worse off working 16 or more hours per week after the full implementation of the universal credit under each childcare option he proposes; [63815]

(3) how many households with child care costs would be better off after the full implementation of the universal credit based on assumed maximum entitlements for the financial year 2010-11 compared to under benefit rates within the existing system for the financial year 2010-11. [63816]

Chris Grayling: The details of the child care element in universal credit are not yet finalised. The impacts of the proposed child care policy will be set out in future iterations of the universal credit impact assessment.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households would be both worse off in work than out of work once child care costs are accounted for and affected by the proposed cap on benefit entitlements for out-of-work households if they are out of work under each universal credit option for child care costs. [63868]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as the estimated impacts from the benefit cap in universal credit will depend upon the final detailed design issues regarding the treatment of in-work households.

Furthermore, the details of the child care element in universal credit are not yet finalised. The impacts of the proposed childcare policy will be set out in future iterations of the universal credit impact assessment.

Corporate Manslaughter

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department expect to next meet representatives of Families Against Corporate Killers; and if he will make a statement. [64956]

Chris Grayling: Ministers meet with key H&S stakeholders and lobby groups on a regular basis. However, there are currently no plans to meet representatives of Families Against Corporate Killers.

Disability Living Allowance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which key activities he proposes will be examined as part of the proposed objective assessment for disability living allowance. [64702]

Maria Miller: On 9 May we published our initial proposals for the assessment criteria for personal independence payment, which will replace disability living allowance from 2013. These were developed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability. We intend that the priority in the benefit should go to those individuals who are least able to live independent lives and so are proposing to assess individuals' ability to carry out a range of key everyday activities.

The activities we are proposing to assess are:

Planning and buying food and drink;
Preparing food and drink;
Taking nutrition;
Managing medication and monitoring health conditions;
Managing prescribed therapies other than medication;
Washing, bathing & grooming;
Managing toilet needs or incontinence;
Dressing and undressing;
Communicating with others;
Planning and following a journey, and
Moving around.

These activities have been chosen to provide a more holistic assessment of the impact of disability that the current DLA criteria, considering the impact of a more comprehensive range of impairment types. For example, the introduction of communication is a significant departure from DLA and one which will ensure we better take into account the effect of impairments of hearing, speech and language comprehension.

We are currently carrying out an informal consultation and have already met with over 60 disability organisations to discuss the criteria, how they will work and how they might be improved. We are also testing the assessment, to enable us to better understand its likely impact, by carrying out around 900 sample assessments over the summer. Our aim is to provide a further draft of the assessment criteria and regulations in the autumn, building on the testing and the feedback from disability organisations.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training and guidance his Department gives to staff on making decisions on disability living allowance claims for people with *(a)* sickle cell disease and *(b)* other fluctuating conditions. [64783]

Maria Miller: Decision-makers are provided with evidence-based guidance on a range of disabling conditions which includes sickle cell disease and other fluctuating conditions. The guidance includes information on clinical features, treatment, sources of evidence, disabling effects in relation to care and mobility and prognosis.

The guidance to decision-makers on determining entitlement to benefit where the claimant's condition fluctuates is to take a broad view over the whole period and consider whether the claimant can fairly be described as meeting the test.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the waiting time for patients with sickle cell disease who have been refused disability living allowance for cases before an appeal tribunal against the decision. [64789]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The first-tier tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) does not record disability living allowance (DLA) appeals by specific disability and cannot, therefore, provide the waiting time for patients with sickle cell disease. However, it is possible to provide the average time taken from submission of a disability living allowance appeal to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) until the date of the first appeal hearing at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

The information in the following table covers April 2011, the latest period for which figures are available:

Disability living allowance waiting times

	Weeks
Average time in weeks from submission to DWP to receipt at HMCTS[1]	6.88
Average time in weeks from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing	24.37

[1] The data regarding the time from when an appeal is submitted to the DWP until it is received by HMCTS are taken from HMCTS' database and relies on the date of submission provided by DWP. The Tribunal does not measure the time from receipt at DWP to receipt at HMCTS and the average has been calculated by subtracting the time from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing from the total average time.

Longer than usual waiting times for a hearing result from an unexpectedly high level of appeals across DWP. In response, HMCTS has increased its capacity significantly and, nationally, published management information shows that 38% more SSCS appeals were cleared in April 2011 compared to April 2010 (and 65% more when compared with April 2009). Further capacity increases are in hand.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Work programme in placing disabled people into employment. [65296]

Chris Grayling: In order to secure contracts to deliver the Work programme, providers have put together strong supply chains with a wide range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, capable between them of tailoring services to meet the full range of individual needs, including those of disabled people.

We expect to see substantial indications of the success of the Work programme from spring 2013. A full independent evaluation has been commissioned for that year as the first participants complete their two years and I look forward to sharing the results with the House in due course. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the programme in the interim.

Health and Safety Executive: Inspections

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential effects of planned changes to the budget of the Health and Safety Executive on the number of *(a)* proactive workplace inspections and *(b)* incident inspections undertaken by the Executive. [64191]

Chris Grayling: As announced in my statement of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, as a matter of policy, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is changing its approach to target proactive workplace inspections more effectively on areas of greatest risk and substantially reducing the overall number of proactive inspections to businesses in lower risk areas. The criteria by which the HSE selects incidents for investigation have not changed, although by their nature, it is not possible to say in advance how many will be carried out.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he attended the Quad meeting referred to in the letter sent by the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Prime Minister's office in January 2011 on the potential impact of policies on the benefit cap and housing benefit of the Department. [64656]

Chris Grayling: There were a number of ministerial meetings in January 2011 to discuss welfare reform which the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), attended. All decisions taken concerning welfare were agreed with the Secretary of State.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the assumptions made by the Department for Communities and Local Government on homelessness arising from *(a)* the overall benefit cap and *(b)* housing benefit reductions were not included in the Welfare Reform Bill impact assessments. [64657]

Chris Grayling: The Government's estimate of the potential impact on homelessness of the proposed overall benefit cap, which was published on 16 February 2011, was signed off by the Department's chief analyst as a fair and accurate representation of the policy impacts, and is agreed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he was aware of the Department for Communities and Local Government estimate of the homelessness impact of the overall benefit cap before he signed the impact assessment of 15 February 2011. [64658]

Chris Grayling: The Government's estimate of the potential impact on homelessness of the proposed overall benefit cap contained in the impact assessment was signed off on the basis that it was a fair and accurate representation of the policy impacts, and is agreed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Ministers in his Department saw or were copied into the letter written by the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Prime Minister's office in January 2011 setting out the effect of the benefit cap and housing benefit reductions on homelessness. [64659]

Chris Grayling: A copy of the letter addressed to the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister was sent to the Department's private office.

Housing Benefit: Homelessness

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment his Department has made of the number of households likely to present as homeless in each local authority area as a consequence of the overall benefit cap in the 12 months following its introduction; [64823]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs to each local authority as a consequence of households presenting as homeless in the 12 months following the introduction of the overall benefit cap. [64824]

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the households he has calculated face homelessness as a consequence of the overall benefit cap is assumed to come from *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private tenancies; and what proportion is resident in each region. [64638]

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of likely changes in the rate of homelessness in Warrington borough if the Government's plans for a benefit cap are implemented. [64948]

Chris Grayling: The benefit cap will mean that people on benefit will face choices about housing costs similar to those faced by people in work. But it will not necessarily mean that they will need to move from their home. Even within the limits of this cap, households will still be able to receive significant amounts of financial assistance from state welfare payments and if a member of the household moves into work and becomes eligible for working tax credit they will be exempt from the impacts of the cap.

There is a range of help local authorities can offer to households at risk of becoming homeless including the provision of discretionary housing payments. We have already made an additional £190 million available over the spending review period for this purpose as a result of the changes we have made to housing benefit.

The Government published their impact assessment of the benefit cap in February alongside the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill. This made it clear that it is not possible to estimate the number of additional homelessness applications that might arise as a consequence of the overall benefit cap because this would have to be based on behavioural changes. The impact assessment can be found via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Industrial Accidents

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects of *(a)* proactive workplace inspections and *(b)* incident inspections conducted by the Health and Safety Executive on the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries in the workplace. [64192]

Chris Grayling: No. There are additional factors beyond the inspections and investigations undertaken by HSE which influence the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries in the workplace most notably the behaviour of employers and employees.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of fatalities and major injuries recorded under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 in each of the last five years *(a)* were investigated by the Health and Safety Executive, *(b)* resulted in an enforcement notice, *(c)* resulted in a prosecution and *(d)* resulted in any other enforcement activity. [64200]

Chris Grayling: Information on the numbers of fatalities and major injuries recorded under RIDDOR 1995 in each of the last five years, and on the numbers investigated by HSE, which resulted in formal enforcement, is provided in the following two tables.

Table 1: Fatalities

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fatalities reported to all enforcing authorities i.e. to HSE, ORR and local authorities	618	—	662	—	604	—	605	—	537	—
Number which are HSE-enforced fatalities	255	—	282	—	267	—	235	—	170	—
Number of HSE-enforced fatalities investigated (% of total HSE-enforced fatalities)	255	100	282	100	267	100	235	100	170	100
Number of HSE-enforced fatalities resulting in prosecution (% of total HSE-enforced fatalities investigated)	94	37	107	38	103	39	66	28	32	19
Number of HSE-enforced fatalities resulting in an enforcement notice (% of total HSE-enforced fatalities investigated)	50	20	68	24	72	27	79	34	51	30

Table 2: Major injuries

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10[1]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Major injuries reported to all enforcing authorities	46,085	—	47,511	—	47,933	—	52,547	—	53,004	—
Number which are HSE-enforced major injuries	31,147	—	32,736	—	32,809	—	36,284	—	34,963	—
Number of HSE-enforced major injuries investigated (% of total HSE-enforced major injuries)	2,562	8	2,557	8	2,478	8	1,890	5	1,867	5
Number of HSE-enforced major injuries resulting in prosecution (% of total HSE-enforced major injuries investigated)	181	7	243	10	259	10	192	10	184	10
Number of HSE-enforced major injuries resulting in an enforcement notice (% of total HSE-enforced major injuries investigated)	194	8	291	11	369	15	298	16	323	17

[1] Provisional.

The information in Tables 1 and 2 is current as at 4 July 2011 and relates to fatalities and major injuries to both workers and members of the public. It includes both investigations which have been completed and those which are ongoing. Ongoing investigations may result in further enforcement action being taken, particularly for incidents which occurred in the most recent years. An investigation can result in both the issue of a notice and prosecution.

Major injury figures for 2009-10 are provisional and finalised figures will be available in November 2011.

Information on fatalities and major injuries resulting in other enforcement activities (e.g. a letter) can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the proportionate implementation of the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 by *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* local authority inspectors. [63976]

Chris Grayling: Health and safety law should protect people at work but in a common sense way, without needless bureaucracy. The Health and Safety Executive enforces the law proportionately, by targeting those areas which represent the greatest risks to people at work and those who operate outside the law, in accordance with its enforcement policy statement. Local authorities should follow the same principles when taking enforcement decisions.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost to the Health and Safety Executive of implementing the recommendations relating to it contained in "Common Sense, Common Safety". [64193]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) 2010 spending review settlement for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 takes account of the resources HSE needs to implement the recommendations in 'Common Sense, Common Safety' that it leads on.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications for local authority sub-contracting of health and safety inspections of the recommendations relating to combining food safety and health and safety contained in "Common Sense, Common Safety". [64196]

Chris Grayling: The guidance on combined food hygiene and health and safety inspections was jointly prepared by Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Food Standards Agency (FSA) and local government representative bodies. It implemented the recommendation arising from 'Common Sense, Common Safety' and advised all local authorities (LAs) undertaking health and safety or food hygiene inspections that they should combine these inspections where appropriate.

Some LAs use contractors to undertake food safety and health and safety inspections, in such cases the LA itself retains the overall management and enforcement responsibility. The guidance to combine inspections should be considered when the LA plans and directs their inspection resources, whether they use contractors or LA officers.

While health and safety is a reserved matter, food safety is devolved, such that the guidance only applies in England but is made available to LAs in Scotland and Wales should they wish to follow similar principles.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for relocation of Jobcentre Plus staff who work in offices which are to be closed. [64304]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what plans he has for relocation of Jobcentre Plus staff who work in offices which are to be closed. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On 13 May 2011 Jobcentre Plus announced that 22 benefit and contact centres would close—20 during the next 12 months (5 contact centres and 15 benefit centres) and 2 more benefit centres during 2012/13. A commitment has been made that all of the staff affected by these closures will receive an offer of redeployment within Jobcentre Plus, either locally or further afield. There may be additional opportunities for redeployment into other Civil Service posts outside of this Department.

Jobcentre Plus is midway through individual consultation meetings with staff. These meetings will discuss the closure and give staff the opportunity to talk about their personal circumstances and commitments and the redeployment options that are available to them.

The individual meetings will determine the scope and potential for redeployment and this will need to be balanced with the needs of the business. Once all of the information has been gathered from those individual meetings and compared with the job opportunities that are actually available, decisions will be made as to where members of staff will be posted. It is intended that Jobcentre Plus will be able to give everyone an indication of their posting by the end of July.

Staff who move to a new site following the closure of their existing site will retain their existing terms and conditions.

Staff who incur extra travel costs as a result of any future transfer may qualify for help with excess fares. Any member of staff who accepts a post outside of the Jobcentre Plus normal daily travelling distance definition (either 1 or 1½ hours depending on grade and length of service), can apply for a workforce management redeployment package. This can help with excess travel time and additional childcare costs in addition to excess fares.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for the planned closure of the benefit and contact centres. [64305]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what timetable he has set for the planned closure of the benefit and contact centres. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is an outline timetable for the closure of the 22 offices. Over the next 12 months 20 sites will close (5 contact centres and 15 benefit centres) and 2 more benefit centres (Carlisle and Hartlepool) will close during 2012/13.

Many of the aforementioned 20 sites that are set for closure during the next 12 months have a one year notice period to be served and thus the notice to surrender has already been given in order to facilitate the closures. They will all close by the end of May 2012 but we are looking to phase the movement of work and people over the next 9 months.

There are a few sites where only 6 months notice needs to be given. Clydebank Contact Centre is one such site where the closure date there is November 2011.

Mansfield Benefit Centre

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what calculations his Department made when taking the decision to close Mansfield Benefits Centre; [63700]

(2) what factors were considered by his Department in determining that the Mansfield Benefit Centre is one of the most expensive centres in the country. [63822]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what calculations were made when taking the decision to close Mansfield Benefits Centre and what factors were considered by his Department in determining that it is one of the most expensive centres in the country. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus had to conduct a comprehensive review of its Benefit and Contact Centres to address the fact that the organisation has under-used space when it is striving to become leaner, more productive and deliver optimum value for money for the taxpayer through the use of modernised service delivery channels.

An equally weighted and balanced criteria was used during the review to inform the eventual decision making process. The criteria consisted of;

Cost effectiveness;

Performance and productivity;

The size of the sites;

Redeployment potential;

The results of Equality Impact Assessments carried out, and;

The wider economic impact, the unemployment rate in the area and whether there were any planned closures or redundancies by other Government departments, in the locality.

In terms of cost, Jobcentre Plus used a cost per work station calculation. This is the total cost of running a site including lease and utility costs but excluding staff and IT costs, divided by the number of workstations at a site.

The size of sites was another calculation. The recognised optimum site size (for sites of the Mansfield Benefit Centre type) is between 200 and 500 seats. There are just 117 staff in post at Mansfield Benefit Centre.

All of these criteria are considered when a decision to close a site is made.

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether any organisation or business has expressed an interest in occupying the premises currently used by the Mansfield Benefits Centre; [63701]

(2) what level of lease charges is levied for the use of the offices occupied by the Mansfield Benefits Centre; [63702]

(3) who owns the premises of the Mansfield Benefits Centre; [63703]

(4) what the terms and conditions are of the lease held by his Department in respect of the Mansfield Benefits Centre. [63704]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking whether any organisation or business has expressed an interest in occupying the premises currently used by the Mansfield Benefits Centre, what level of lease charges is levied for the use of the offices, who owns the premises and what the terms and conditions are of the lease. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP signed a 20 year Private Finance Initiative contract with Telereal Trillium in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge.

A single unitary charge is paid for the provision of Mansfield Hill House which accommodates both the Benefit Centre and the Jobcentre. The total cost of the premises is commercial in confidence. Jobcentre Plus can expect to benefit from a reduction in cost by relinquishing the office space occupied by the Benefit Centre.

The terms and conditions of the occupancy by Mansfield Benefit Centre fall within the aforementioned Private Finance Initiative contract between DWP and Telereal Trillium.

With regards the ownership of the premises, the Mansfield Benefit Centre estate is freehold and owned by Telereal Trillium. In terms of future occupation of the space that Jobcentre Plus vacates, Telereal Trillium will now act according to the terms by which it runs that building to seek new occupiers.

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of savings to be achieved through the closure of the Mansfield Benefits Centre. [63705]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of savings to be achieved through the closure of the Mansfield Benefits Centre. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The challenge, for Jobcentre Plus is to save £170 million through its overall estates rationalisation programme. It is anticipated that the decision to close Mansfield Benefit Centre and 21 other Benefit and Contact Centres will save £14 million by 2015.

It is not always possible to be specific about the savings that will be realised through the closure of individual sites. Mansfield Benefit Centre is a prime example as it is co-located with a Jobcentre that is not set to close. Typically when Jobcentre Plus relinquishes a floor of a building it will negotiate with estate provider Telereal Trillium to achieve a saving or it will explore the inward co-location potential for new revenue.

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what terms and conditions will be applied to staff employed in the Mansfield Benefits Centre in respect of any future transfer to the Derby Benefits Centre, Derby Contact Centre and Annesley Contact Centre. [63706]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question that asked what terms and conditions will be applied to staff employed in the Mansfield Benefits Centre in respect of any future transfer to the Derby Benefits Centre, Derby Contact Centre and Annesley Contact Centre. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus staff who move to a new site following the closure of their existing site will retain their existing terms and conditions. However, a member of staff might wish to review their actual working patterns with their manager at the new site and this will be discussed at the appropriate time.

Staff who incur extra travel costs may qualify for help with excess fares. Any member of staff who accepts a post outside of our normal daily travelling distance definition of 1 or 1.5 hours can apply for a workforce management redeployment package. This can help with excess travel time and additional childcare costs in addition to excess fares. If a post is available within daily travelling distance, it is normally expected that staff will take that post to protect the use of public funds.

Motability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulation of the Motability scheme; and whether he has plans to improve its regulation. [64820]

Maria Miller: The Department works closely with Motability but it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

The Department for Work and Pensions regularly meets with Motability to discuss the performance of the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on its behalf, and to discuss the Motability scheme more generally. These discussions are helpful to both parties in order to ensure that the scheme gives personal mobility on terms which represent value for money and meet the needs of disabled people.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* number of households and *(b)* households as a proportion of the working-age-out-of-work benefit caseload who will be affected by the introduction of his proposed overall benefit cap in each region. [63824]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

However, as we have stated in our impact assessment, if the benefit cap were applied in full, we estimate that around 50,000 households in Great Britain will have their benefits reduced by the policy. This is roughly 1% of the out-of-work benefit caseload. Households whose benefit is reduced as a result of the cap on total benefit income will lose on average around £93 per week.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* number of households in London whose total welfare benefits income exceeds the average take-home earnings of London working households and *(b)* proportion of such households represent of the working-age-out-of-work benefit caseload in London. [63825]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available, as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results on the number of households in London whose total welfare benefits income exceeds the average take-home earnings of London working households.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will publish his Department's modelling assumptions on the potential effects of *(a)* the overall benefit cap and *(b)* restrictions on housing benefit on homelessness and housing need; [64635]

(2) if he will publish the modelling assumptions underpinning his Department's estimate of *(a)* the number of homelessness applications as a consequence of the overall benefit cap and *(b)* the number of homelessness applications as a result of housing benefit restrictions. [64655]

Chris Grayling: We have published impact assessments and equality impact assessments on the DWP website for the introduction of the benefit cap and the changes we are making to housing benefit. The dates for the relevant publications are 16 February 2011 for the introduction of the benefit cap, changes related to the under-occupation of social housing, uprating local housing allowance by the consumer price index and for non-dependant deduction reforms and 9 May 2011 for the changes in the shared accommodation rate.

However these assessments do not contain an estimate of the impact on homelessness as we cannot anticipate the behaviours of tenants or their landlords.

Unemployed People: Public Transport

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 823W, on unemployed people: public transport, whether information related to the Flexible Support Fund is available in hard copy in each Jobcentre Plus office. [62763]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus advisers are the gateway to the information and support available for customers. The range of leaflets provided by the Department aims to provide broad information on the main benefits and services available. The leaflets are kept as concise as possible and written in plain English so that most people can quickly find what they want and understand the information. The leaflets cannot attempt to provide information on all circumstances. As the help provided to jobseekers is tailored to meet individual needs and depends upon a number of factors, it is impossible to provide concise and accurate information on all the help available. For a jobseeker this information would be provided by a member of staff in Jobcentre Plus. Information on travel to interview support is available in the leaflet 'Help with job interviews', DWP 1016, and this is available on request in Jobcentre Plus offices.

The Department has recently revised the main information leaflet suite and now has six brief signposting leaflets covering the main life events such as finding a job. People requiring more information can either go online to Directgov or ask at a Jobcentre Plus office for a further leaflet. This approach aims to encourage people to go online for information and reduce the overall cost of producing departmental leaflets.

Work Capability Assessment: Autism

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made on the possibility of allowing people with autistic spectrum disorders to bring a carer or advocate to assessments where they wish to do so. [64816]

Maria Miller: Individuals claiming employment and support allowance will undergo a work capability assessment (WCA). Everyone who attends a face-to-face assessment as part of this process, including those with autistic spectrum disorders, is encouraged to bring a relative, carer or advocate with them to their assessment.

Following the Independent Review of the WCA by Professor Harrington we have made improvements so that claimants better understand the process, including their right to bring someone with them to an assessment.

Atos Healthcare have also published a Customer Charter which encourages individuals to

> "bring a relative, carer or friend along to the assessment if you would find it helpful."

The claims and assessment processes for personal independence payment are still being developed and we intend to follow a similar process, learning from the Harrington Review findings. Individuals will be able and encouraged to bring a relative, friend, carer or advocate with them for their face-to-face consultations as part of the assessment for the benefit.

DEFENCE

Military Decorations

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the 2006 decision to allow eligible veterans to receive the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal but not to allow it to be worn; and if he will make a statement. [64449]

Mr Robathan: An ongoing review of the rules governing the award of medals is considering the principles which underpin these rules. In doing so, appropriate consideration will be given to how the rules have been applied to past decisions on medals, including the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal. We are currently considering the views of a number of campaign groups, including the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Veterans Association.

Armed Forces

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to standardise harmony guidelines for each branch of the armed forces; [64174]

(2) when his Department will publish its Force Generation Review. [64175]

Mr Robathan: The Force Generation Review is considering a wide range of factors including tour lengths and harmony guidelines; this work is ongoing.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were *(a)* unaccompanied and *(b)* accompanied on service in the latest period for which figures are available. [65248]

Mr Robathan: As at 6 July 2011, 125,460 service personnel were recorded as being unaccompanied, and 62,010 as accompanied on service.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Coventry South of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1214-15, on accommodation costs, (1) what definition his Department uses for entitled service personnel; [64592]

(2) what the rank was of each recipient of accommodation; [64593]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average annual rent paid by his Department for accommodation properties. [64594]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* A summary of all entitled and eligible Service and civilian personnel can be found in the Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations, published as Joint Service Publication 464. The relevant section, part 1, chapter 11, annex A, will be placed in the Library of the House.

In 2010-11 the Ministry of Defence spent an average annual rent of some £4,600 on accommodation properties in the UK.

Current records show the following breakdown of occupants of service family accommodation (SFA) and substitute SFA in London, by rank. There are some properties where no rank is recorded. Similar information on occupants of single living accommodation and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) is not held centrally.

Rank	*Total*
Able Seaman	9
Air Commodore	8
Air Chief Marshal	1
Admiral	1
Air Marshal	1
Air Vice Marshal	1
Bombardier	4
Brigadier	17
Captain	93
Captain RN	8
Commander	26
Commodore	2
Craftsman	12
Corporal of the Horse	36
Colonel	36
Corporal	238
Chief Petty Officer	12
Colour Sergeant	21
Chief Technician	7
Drummer	4
Flying Officer	6
Flight Lieutenant	36
Flight Sergeant	19
Fusilier	6
Group Captain	16
Guardsman	136
General	5
Gunner	15
Leading Aircraftsman	8
Lance Bombardier	7
Lance Corporal of the Horse	69
Lance Corporal	247
Leading Diver	11
Lance Sergeant	64
Lieutenant	22
Lieutenant Commander	45
Lieutenant Colonel	111
Major General	5
Major	229
Musician	18
NATO Officer	1
Officer Cadet	1

Rank	*Total*
Pilot Officer	2
Petty Officer	13
Private	171
Rear Admiral	2
Reverend	1
Squadron Leader	85
Sub-Lieutenant	1
Senior Aircraftsman	69
Staff Corporal	11
Student Bandmaster	2
Signaller	1
Sergeant	195
Sapper	1
Staff Sergeant	45
Trooper	86
Vice Admiral	1
Wing Commander	54
Warrant Officer	17
Warrant Officer Class 1	49
Warrant Officer Class 2	59

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority is of each site of (i) service families accommodation and (ii) single living accommodation of 100 or more units. [65250]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 299W, on armed forces: injuries, whether he has any plans to publish the results of any of the current collaborative research with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory; and if so which areas he will publish. [64764]

Mr Robathan: Wherever possible, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) publishes, often in collaboration with the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham, the results of its research programme in open scientific peer-reviewed journals.

This is done to ensure that the advances made can be utilised both in military and civilian scenarios.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for delivery of the second batch of light patrol protected vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [63649]

Peter Luff: A decision on the second tranche will be made in due course and announced to the House in the usual way.

Army: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to reduce the size of the Army after 2015. [64960]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1222, by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

Chief Coroner

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what evidence his Department holds on the financial effects on his Department in each of the next five years of appointing a Chief Coroner with the functions provided for by the Coroner and Justice Act 2009; [65188]

(2) whether his Department has carried out *(a)* a cost-benefit analysis and *(b)* an impact assessment in relation to the introduction of a Chief Coroner, with the functions provided for by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [65253]

Mr Robathan: We hold no evidence on the financial effects of the Chief Coroner on the Ministry of Defence and have not carried out a cost-benefit analysis or impact assessment as the cost of establishing a Chief Coroner would fall to the Ministry of Justice. An impact assessment for Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 was published by the Ministry of Justice in December 2008 and summarised the full costs and benefits of implementing the coroners provisions in the act.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64689]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Calendar year	*Total number of staff dismissed for reasons of performance*
2008-09	[1]—
2009-10	10
2010-11	10

[1] Represents figures of five or below.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Freedom of Information Requests

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63592]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence's Freedom of Information statistics do not distinguish between Members of Parliament and the general public. This is because the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is applicant- and motive-blind.

Civilian Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* support staff in each role in theatre and *(b)* other civilian staff were employed by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [63651]

Mr Robathan: The latest figure for Ministry of Defence civilian staff currently deployed in theatre is 1,172. Of these, 989 are locally employed civilians (LECs) and 183 are in support of Operation Herrick in Afghanistan. These are broken down as follows, with figures for 2010 shown for comparison:

	Staff numbers	
Role	*2010*	*2011*
Civil Secretary	1	1
Deputy Civil Secretary	2	2
Policy Adviser	7	3
Defence Adviser	8	10
Commercial Officer	6	5
Finance Officer	9	8
Media Adviser	1	2
Operational Analyst	6	11
Scientific Adviser	4	4
Fire Officer	1	1
Ministry of Defence Police	20	24
Area Claims Officer	2	1
NHS Nurse	2	0
Archivist	2	0
Graphics Officer	1	1
Defence Estates Project Manager	4	3
Defence Support (DSG)	30	92
Locally Employed Civilians (LECs)	850	989
Supply Chain Staff	n/a	14
Deployments Manager	n/a	1
Total UK civil servants	106	183

The total number of civilian staff employed by the MOD in April 2011 including LECs and those listed above was 87,060 (83,060 full-time equivalent) compared to 89,970 (85,590 full-time equivalent) in 2010.

Departmental Written Questions

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many questions for written answer on a named day his Department has answered *(a)* substantively on the day named, *(b)* with a holding answer followed by a substantive answer and *(c)* with a holding answer only since June 2010. [65014]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence received 1,057 questions for written answer on a named day between 1 June 2010 and 6 July 2011. Of these, 601 were answered substantively on the day named; 449 were answered with a holding answer followed by a substantive answer; and seven have been answered with a holding answer only.

Indirect Fire Precision Attack Programme

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the Indirect Fire Precision Attack programme; and if he will make a statement; [63736]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total cost of the Indirect Fire Precision Attack programme; [63737]

(3) how many munitions will be supplied to the armed forces under the Indirect Fire Precision Attack programme. [63738]

Peter Luff: The fire shadow loitering munition project is the current focus of the Indirect Fire Precision Attack (IFPA) programme. The project is progressing well through the demonstration and manufacture phase and is on track to deliver a deployable capability in 2012. We already know that there is interest in this capability from other nations and we are pursuing export opportunities as part of the wider complex weapons initiative in support of driving down future costs.

The wider IFPA programme is in the assessment phase; this will establish the type and numbers of munitions required and the associated costs. The broad cost of the first phase of the fire shadow loitering munition programme, including concept, assessment, demonstration and initial manufacture, is forecast to be some £200 million.

Information relating to future fire shadow loitering munition stock levels is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security and because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Joint Services Command and Staff College

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the current intake at the Joint Services Command and Staff College are from the *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Royal Navy. [62108]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* As at 27 June 2011, the Joint Services Command and Staff College have the following UK military students on courses with them:

Course	*Royal Navy*[1]	*Army*	*RAF*
Advanced Command and Staff Course	58	72	63
Intermediate Command and Staff Courses	53	145	55
Total	111	217	118

[1] This includes the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Merlin Helicopters

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the Merlin upgrade programme; and if he will make a statement; [63744]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the costs of the Merlin upgrade programme; [63745]

(3) what estimate he has made of how many Merlin helicopters will be upgraded as part of the Merlin upgrade programme. [63746]

Peter Luff: The Merlin capability sustainment programme, which aims to sustain the Merlin Mk1 capability to 2029, remains on track and is currently in the demonstration and manufacture phase. The expected cost of this programme is £843 million. This programme will deliver 30 MK2 standard aircraft.

The Merlin Mk3/3a Life Sustainment Programme is still being developed. The content, value and time-scales cannot be confirmed until the main investment decision is made.

Military Aircraft: Nuclear Installations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what near miss incidents involving RAF aircraft and UK nuclear installations have been reported to his Department in each year since May 2004; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on each such incident. [64468]

Mr Robathan: Since May 2004 there have been two incidents of RAF aircraft entering the restricted airspace imposed around nuclear installations, these are shown in the following table. These incidents were investigated and neither were assessed to present a risk to the installation. I will place copies of the reports into each of these incidents, with appropriate redactions, in the Library of the House.

Date	*Nuclear installation*	*Closest approach*
8 October 2004	Sellafield Nuclear Power Station	1.5 nautical miles (lateral)
12 August 2008	Harwell Nuclear Facility	1 nautical mile (lateral)

Military Bases

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority is of each (i) base, (ii) garrison and (iii) barracks of each of the armed services in (A) England and (B) Wales. [65249]

Mr Robathan: A list of Ministry of Defence bases, garrisons and barracks in England and Wales, arranged by parliamentary constituency, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Breakdown by local authority is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, Official Report, column 21W, on military bases, what (1) monetary values were given to *(a)* the salaries of US and UK personnel, *(b)* the cost of construction projects, *(c)* utilities, *(d)* local supply purchases, *(e)* visitor lodging, *(f)* meals and incidentals and *(g)* other elements considered in the local economic impact assessment of RAF Menwith Hill; [63660]

(2) calculation was made to arrive at the overall figure for the economic impact at RAF Menwith Hill. [63661]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the monetary value given to each category upon which the overall economic assessment was based; a conversion rate of $1.6943 equals £1 was used.

		£ million
	Financial year	
	2010	*2011*
US Salaries	84.6	86.2
UK Salaries	29	29.7
Construction	32.8	9.1
Utilities	5.5	6.7
Local Supplies	5.5	5.6
Visitors[1]	6.1	6.4
Total	163.5	143.7

[1] Totals are based on the standard daily allowance rate.

US authorities at RAF Menwith Hill calculate the overall figure for the economic impact of the establishment was based on the salaries of US and UK personnel, construction costs, payments for utilities, local supplies and visitors.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total cost of the search and rescue helicopter project. [63817]

Peter Luff: The total future cost of the joint Ministry of Defence/Department for Transport Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopter project has previously been estimated as approximately £7 billion over some 25 years. Following the cancellation, in February 2011, of the previous procurement process due to contract irregularities, we are considering the potential procurement options to meet the future requirements for SAR helicopters in the United Kingdom and we will make a further announcement once a way forward has been agreed.

Reserve Forces

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the review of reserve forces will be published prior to 20 July. [65493]

Mr Robathan: No firm date for publication has been set.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [63647]

Peter Luff: The Royal Fleet Auxiliary will continue to operate a fleet of supply and support vessels scaled to meet the Navy's requirements. We are taking forward the findings of the value for money review of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary which were announced in the debate by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 137-46. Under the military afloat reach and sustainability programme we plan to begin replacing the existing single-hulled tankers and solid support ships with new ships later this decade.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding arms export licences to Saudi Arabia. [64827]

Mr Robathan: There have been no discussions between the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on export licensing for Saudi Arabia.

Trident

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 675W, on Trident, whether he has assessed options for an alternative to the replacement of Trident that would provide an equivalent level of deterrence. [65499]

Mr Robathan: The 2006 White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) set out the results of a fundamental analysis of options for any successor deterrent system. This work concluded that a minimum nuclear deterrent based on a new generation of ballistic missile-carrying submarines operating a continuous at sea deterrence posture was right for the UK. As set out in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (Cm 7948), and as the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), reiterated in his statement to the House on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 351-353, this remains Government policy.

As the Secretary of State for Defence explained in his answer of 28 June 2011, the study to assist the Liberal Democrats in making the case for alternatives will review the costs, feasibility and credibility of alternative platforms, alternative delivery systems and alternative postures.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the MQ-9 Reaper or any other form of UK drone has been used in Pakistan airspace by UK forces; and if he will make a statement. [64474]

Mr Robathan: No UK Reaper remotely piloted air systems or unmanned air systems have been used in Pakistani airspace by UK forces.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a response to each of the questions raised in Chapter 5, 'Moral and Ethical Issues', in the Joint Doctrine Note 2/11, "The UK Approach to Unmanned Aircraft Systems", of 30 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [64475]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence operates to the highest legal, moral and ethical standards. Joint Doctrine Note 2/11 (JDN 2/11) recognises that we must continue to observe these high standards when employing new technology, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), to achieve our defence objectives.

As stated in its preface, JDN 2/11 seeks to consider how UAS may contribute to the UK's future defence and security needs. Its purpose is to identify the issues that should be addressed if such systems are to be successfully developed and integrated into future operations. It does not describe agreed policy but rather seeks to energise debate within the UK to inform policy development; the Ministry of Defence welcomes and encourages that debate and the opportunity to contribute fully to it.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* insurgents and *(b)* civilians have been killed as a result of UK unmanned aircraft and armed drone missions in each year since such craft were first used; by what mechanism such civilian deaths and injuries are monitored; and if he will make a statement. [64476]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not hold a comprehensive record of figures for insurgent or civilian casualties in Afghanistan, because of the immense difficulty and risks that would be involved in collecting robust data.

Any incident involving civilian casualties is a matter of deep regret and we take every possible measure to avoid such incidents. There are strict procedures, frequently updated in light of experience, intended to both minimise the risk of casualties occurring and to investigate incidents that do happen.

USA: Defence Academy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 835-6W, on USA: Defence Academy, what the *(a)* itinerary and *(b)* dates were of the visit; whether the students travelled by scheduled flights; and how many students travelled in (a) economy and (b) standard business class. [64167]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 July 2011]*: The Advanced Command and Staff Course, Defence Academy itinerary to the USA, including dates of the visit, was as follows:

2 June 2011—advance party of personnel travel out to the USA.

4 June 2011—half the students and staff travel out to Washington DC.

5 June 2011—rest of the students and staff travel out to Washington DC.

6 June 2011—briefings in Washington. Course departs for Naval Station Norfolk Virginia, via coach.

7 June 2011—briefings received.

8 June 2011—travelled to Marine Corps Base Quantico Virginia, via coach. Briefings received. Travel back to Washington—via coach.

9 June 2011—briefings in Washington.

10 June 2011—half the students and staff travel back to the UK.

11 June 2011—rest of students and staff travel back to the UK.

All the students travelled via the Washington trooper flight, economy class.

Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits Ministers and staff of his Department have made to defence establishments in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire since 2008. [61550]

Mr Robathan: Information on visits by staff for the whole period, and information on ministerial visits prior to May 2010, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. No Defence Minister has visited Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire since May 2010.

X-rays

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on storing radiology records in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [63936]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Devolution: Wales

Roger Williams: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales on the remit of the proposed commission on devolution and funding for Wales. [63332]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales, the right hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), about a range of issues, including the scope of the work of the proposed commission.

House of Lords: Reform

Paul Murphy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to consult the public about reform of the House of Lords. [64856]

Mr Harper: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 379W, to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop).

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answers of 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 930W, on legal aid and prisoners: voting rights, (1) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend existing legislation in order to extend the franchise to prisoners; [64483]

(2) whether he has seen draft versions of legislative proposals to extend voting rights to prisoners; and if he will make a statement; [64484]

(3) in which month he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to extend the franchise to prisoners; [64485]

(4) what legislative options he has considered using to extend the franchise to prisoners. [64486]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps in relation to prisoner voting rights and the 11 October deadline set by the European Court of Human Rights to bring forward legislative proposals. I will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached. The Prime Minister has said that the Government will make sure that any legislative proposals are as close as possible to the decision of the House of Commons earlier this year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the introduction of the overall benefit cap on the number of new affordable rent units to be constructed by 2015. [64825]

Grant Shapps: The Department published an Impact Assessment for Affordable Rent in June 2011:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/rentimpactassessment

This analysis takes into account both the overall benefit cap and the flexibilities provided to housing providers to shape their development programmes to local circumstances.

The central scenario in the impact assessment suggests that it is possible for housing providers to deliver 56,000 new affordable rent and affordable home ownership properties (towards the Government's overall ambition of up to 150,000 new affordable homes) between 2011 and 2015, alongside the introduction of the benefit cap.

The Homes and Communities Agency has now received bids for funding from housing providers. These have exceeded our original expectations and we are on track to deliver our ambition of up to 150,000 new affordable homes including family homes.

Business Premises: Leasehold

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the effect of the provisions of the Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Act 2002 in respect of commercial properties on the management of an estate where commercial property benefits from the right to enfranchise. [64199]

Grant Shapps: Tenants (leaseholders) of commercial properties do not have the right to enfranchise under residential leasehold legislation.

Under the "Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002", however, where leasehold houses on an estate are subject to a business lease, the leaseholders may—provided they meet certain qualifying criteria—qualify for enfranchisement. These include the term of the original business lease exceeding 35 years, and the leaseholder occupying the house as their only or main residence for the last two years, or periods amounting to two years in the last 10.

Enfranchisement in these circumstances could result in changes to the management of an estate. No assessment has been made in England of the effects of the introduction of these criteria.

Council Tax: Exemptions

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will examine rules on council tax exemption under which new owners cannot apply for exemption on unoccupied and unfurnished properties if the same property was exempt under previous ownership. [65428]

Robert Neill: The council tax exemption for unoccupied and unfurnished properties applies to the property not the owner. However, local authorities can set a discount on such property between 50% and 0% in the circumstances set out in the question.

Council Tax: Overpayments

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what interest rate the Valuation Office Agency has used for the calculation of compound interest foregone through the overpayment of council tax in each of the last 20 years; and what factors determined the rate set in each case; [63227]

(2) what the policy is of the Valuation Office Agency on compensation payments made in lieu of lost interest on overpaid council tax; on what date that policy was adopted; and whom the Agency consulted on the change from the previous policy. [63234]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are responsible for paying *(a)* overpayments of council tax. There is no legal provision for *(b)* interest lost due to overpayment to be paid by the Valuation Office Agency.

The Valuation Office will consider making an ex gratia payment in cases where it has caused a serious error or delay in reviewing the council tax band of a property.

Since January 2011 the Valuation Office Agency's policy has changed and it no longer makes payments in lieu of lost interest.

The following table shows the interest rates the Valuation Office Agency used, prior to January 2011, in the calculation of payments in lieu of lost interest since council tax was introduced. The level of interest is based on levels used by billing authorities in the calculations used for non-domestic rates refunds.

	Interest rate (percentage)
1993-94	5.00
1994-95	4.25
1995-96	5.75
1996-97	5.00
1997-98	5.00
1998-99	6.25
1999-2000	4.50
2000-01	5.00
2001-02	4.75
2002-03	3.00
2003-04	2.75
2004-05	3.00
2005-06	3.75
2006-07	3.50
2007-08	4.25
2008-09	4.25
2009-10	0
2010-11	0

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 911-2W, what regulations his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [60403]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 911-12W and the associated table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Enterprise Zones

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision on the current round of bids for local enterprise zones. [65089]

Greg Clark: The competition for a further 10 enterprise zones closed on 30 June.

We will announce decisions on the second wave of enterprise zones following the consideration of bids later in the summer.

Government Procurement Card

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by his Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [59050]

Robert Neill: The details of Government Procurement Card transactions for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2008-09 have been deposited in the Library of the House. They include *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier. Level 3 *(d)* or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Each transaction does have a merchant category which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister using the Government Procurement Card during the period it existed as a Government Department. [59210]

Robert Neill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) became a separate Department in May 2002 and existed until May 2006 when it was reformed as the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Confirmation and checking of Government Procurement Card records for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, when it existed as a Government Department, could be accomplished only at disproportionate cost.

Government Procurement Card records exist from April 2004 but during the time that ODPM existed as a separate department they were contaminated by compromised (cloned) Government Procurement Cards. This was investigated and resolved at the time (with no suggestion of internal fraud) but with the passage of time preparing these figures for publication could be accomplished only at disproportionate cost as it would involve checking over 4,000 lines of data.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by each of the Government Offices for the Regions using the Government Procurement Card between 2007-08 and 2009-10. [59211]

Robert Neill: The details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Government Office Network for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 have been deposited in the Library of the House. They include *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier. Level 3 *(d)* or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Each transaction does have a merchant category which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

A breakdown for each individual Government office could only be accomplished at disproportionate cost.

The abolition of the Government offices was announced in the coalition Government's spending review in October 2010. The network closed at the end of March 2011. Functions formerly undertaken by the network have now ceased, with the exception of a small number which transferred elsewhere.

These changes are expected to deliver up to £200 million in savings over the spending review.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to promote transparency in the use of the Government Procurement Card by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* his Department. [59215]

Robert Neill: All principal local authorities in England, except Nottingham city council, are now publishing online their expenditure over £500. This should include Government Procurement Card transactions, identifying the underlying supplier. The 'Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency', currently in draft, will put transparency on a statutory footing.

DCLG has been routinely publishing Government Procurement Card transactions, including the underlying suppliers, for all transactions over £500 on its website since February 2011 and they can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/spenddata/

My Department has also published a detailed breakdown of every single Government Procurement transaction (not just those over £500) for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/1914205

While the card's use can reduce administrative costs of purchasing items, Sir Philip Green's report into Government efficiency last year identified the need for greater checks and balances into the use of the Government Procurement Card. Ministers believe that online transparency will help identify and prevent wasteful spending and help improve procurement efficiency. There is a powerful public interest for past and present spending data to be made public by local authorities, and we would recommend councils consider the case for proactive disclosure.

Green Belt

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department has any plans to alter planning rules for development in green belt land. [64830]

Robert Neill: The coalition agreement commits the Government to maintaining green belt protection. The green belt has a valuable role in stopping urban sprawl and providing a green lung around towns and cities. National policy on green belt protection—currently explained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, 'Green Belts'—will be updated as part of the National Planning Policy Framework. We will consult on the framework shortly. However, through the Localism Bill we will be abolishing regional strategies. This will remove 'top down' pressure to weaken green belt protection. Our revision to planning guidance on travellers, currently out to consultation, also looks to strengthen protection of the green belt.

Homelessness

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what letters he or his officials have sent to Ministers or officials in the Department for Work and Pensions on his Department's assessment of the *(a)* number of households likely to present as homeless as a consequence of the overall benefit cap in the 12 months following its introduction and *(b)* resultant likely costs to local authorities. [64822]

Grant Shapps: Ministers and officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions are in regular correspondence on a range of matters. I refer the right hon. Member to the recent letter to her from the Secretary of State, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Repossession

Louise Mensch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to minimise the number of repossessions of domestic homes during periods of slow economic growth. [64373]

Grant Shapps: The Government are helping homeowners in difficulty by tackling the record deficit to prevent a rapid increase in interest rates hitting struggling households.

The Government are committed to working closely with lenders, debt advice agencies and local authorities to ensure that repossession is only ever a last resort and that effective help and advice for homeowners at risk of repossession is available. The Government "Mortgage Help" website outlines the options available to households.

Housing Strategy

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department will publish the forthcoming Housing Strategy; and what plans he has to stimulate the development of retirement housing of each tenure. [64577]

Grant Shapps: The DCLG Business Plan states the Department will publish a document setting out our overall approach to housing policy by October 2011.

Current national planning policy for housing makes clear that Local Planning Authorities should carry out a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to provide information on the level of needs and demand for housing in their area. The housing requirements of older people should be included in these assessments. Based on the requirements identified, authorities should develop policies and implementation strategies to ensure that sufficient, suitable land is made available to achieve their housing objectives. Clear local housing policies can encourage developers to bring forward proposals for housing which reflect market demand and the needs of different households.

The forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework consultation will cover all forms of development. This will include policy on planning for housing.

Housing: Construction

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of apprenticeships to be created by his new homes programme if contractors developing such homes were required to take on one apprentice for every £1 million worth of construction undertaken. [64179]

Grant Shapps: It would not be appropriate to make an estimate on this basis. No national target has been set for apprenticeships; nor have the Government prescribed a particular approach. Top-down targets create additional burdens and bureaucracy on business.

Experience shows that delivery partners with a positive delivery record on employment and skills have developed a variety of approaches that work according to local circumstances.

Private Rented Housing

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support families with children in accessing the private rented sector. [64698]

Andrew Stunell: Figures drawn from the most recent English Housing Survey (published on 5 July 2011), show that 30% of households in the private rented sector are families with dependent children. This compares with 32% in the social rented sector and 27% of owner occupiers. These percentages suggest that the private rented sector already performs an important role in housing families. The Government have sought to ensure that continues to be the case by minimising burdens on the sector which might inhibit its growth while underlining our commitment to ensuring that the existing legislative framework continues to offer proper protections to those with privately rented homes.

Where a family is unable to find accommodation in their area, they can go for help to their local authority will be able to offer support and, where they are, which found to be unintentionally homeless, will be under a duty to find them suitable accommodation.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what information he holds on the length of local residence required by each local authority in England for the purposes of determining eligibility for social housing; [64873]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities intending to increase the length of local residence as a qualification for access to social housing. [64874]

Andrew Stunell: Under the current allocation legislation, local authorities may not take local residence into account for the purposes of determining eligibility for social housing. However, they may take into account whether an applicant has a local connection with their district when determining priorities for social housing and many authorities do so.

The changes to the allocation legislation in the Localism Bill will give local authorities the power to determine who does or does not qualify for social housing in their district. This would allow local authorities to set residency criteria in future.

Around two-thirds of local authorities that responded to the consultation on social housing reform ('Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing', November 2010) welcomed the increased flexibility to set restrictive qualification criteria. Many of those considering introducing a restricted housing waiting list indicated that they would impose some form of local residency criteria.

The rules determining which categories of foreign nationals are eligible for social housing will continue to be set by central Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effects on alcohol sales of the introduction of her proposed minimum pricing. [61978]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Banning the sale of alcohol below the floor price of duty plus VAT is an important step that will tackle the worst instances of deep discounting.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* other staff of Cambridgeshire police have been transferred to work in the police investigation centre near Kings Lynn since its opening. [63991]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much Cambridgeshire police has spent under each budgetary heading on the police investigation centre near Kings Lynn in each of the last three years. [63992]

Nick Herbert: Information about the amount of money spent by Cambridgeshire police to use the facilities at King's Lynn PIC is not collected centrally.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the minimum number of arrested persons from Cambridgeshire is required to be processed through the police investigation centre near King's Lynn under the private finance initiative contract. [64709]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that the restructuring of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre results in better service and greater efficiency. [63709]

James Brokenshire: In moving the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) into the National Crime Agency (NCA), we will ensure that CEOP:

retains its operational independence, within the context of the NCA;

has clear delegated authority for its budget;

governance continues to include external partners;

retains its well-known brand;

retains its mixed economy of staff, from a variety of disciplines; and

continues its innovative partnerships with the public, private and third sector and has the ability to raise and hold funds from donors.

CEOP will have the advantage of being able to work closely with other commands to ensure that children are protected. Shared intelligence across the NCA will highlight more easily where child exploitation and abuse links to other forms of serious organised criminality and shared enforcement resources will enable more wide-ranging and effective operations.

Control Orders

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many people with control orders in force her Department has no record of their present location. [61956]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Home Office is aware of the present location of all the individuals against whom control orders are currently in force.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people tried and acquitted of one or more charges related to terrorism offences have subsequently been subject to a control order. [61906]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* All of the individuals currently subject to a control order, and most of those who have ever been subject to a control order, are subject to a court-imposed anonymity order. This prevents the publication of information that would identify, or would tend to identify, an individual as being subject to a control order. Any changes to the number of individuals who have been subject to a control order subsequent to being acquitted of any terrorism offences, together with information in the public domain regarding the outcome of criminal trials, would tend to breach the court imposed anonymity order. It is therefore not possible to provide this information.

We can confirm, however, that control orders have been made against individuals who have previously been acquitted of terrorism-related offences.

The issue of making a control order against a person who has been subject to a previous criminal prosecution has been considered by the courts. The courts have found that a control order is addressed to future risk and serves an entirely different purpose to the criminal process.

Crime and Security Act 2010

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which sections of the Crime and Security Act 2010 she plans not to implement. [62302]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Home Office has no plans to implement the following sections of the Crime and Security Act 2010: 6(2), 14, 16 - 23, 40, 41, 42, 44, 55 and 56. On the issues these measures related to, the Government are taking forward their policies in new legislation or through consultation.

Sections 8 to 13 and 15 are now the devolved responsibility of the Northern Ireland Department of Justice.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role local domestic and sexual abuse co-ordinators will play in the implementation of the Government's strategy on violence against women and children. [64128]

Lynne Featherstone: Local domestic and sexual abuse co-ordinators provide an important local strategic lead on this issue, linking statutory and voluntary partner agencies and promoting and improving multi-agency approaches to tackling sexual and domestic violence.

Criminal Records

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of outstanding Criminal Records Bureau checks to be processed by the Metropolitan Police. [64335]

Lynne Featherstone: The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) currently has a workload of approximately 30,000 cases in progress, which equates to about 26 days activity. There have been significant improvements in performance in recent months resulting from the implementation of action plans, which have reduced the workload and the number of outstanding cases at the force. The MPS and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) will continue to work together to reduce the outstanding work in coming months.

Domestic Violence

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* high and *(b)* medium-risk domestic abuse victims there were in (i) Oxford West and Abingdon constituency, (ii) Oxfordshire and (iii) England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [63794]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect information on the number of high or medium-risk victims of domestic abuse in individual areas.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to place multi-agency risk assessment conferences on the same statutory basis as multi-agency public protection arrangements. [64094]

Lynne Featherstone: There are no current plans to place multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) on the same statutory basis as multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).

Fixed Penalties

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for *(a)* noise, *(b)* seat belt, *(c)* obstruction, waiting and parking, *(d)* speed limit and *(e)* hand-held use of mobile telephones offences in each police authority area in each of the last three years. [63690]

Nick Herbert: Available data from 2007 to 2009 (latest published data) are provided in the following tables.

Data for 2010 are scheduled for publication in April 2012.

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for various offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2007-09

	Offence description								
	Noise offences			Seat belt offences			Speed limit offences		
Police force area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	30	57	64	2,544	1,928	1,919	57,746	53,069	54,165
Bedfordshire	10	27	10	3,759	3,187	1,895	30,029	19,884	14,289
Cambridgeshire	53	25	18	4,341	4,382	3,186	25,371	22,548	14,401
Cheshire	24	29	66	4,229	4,382	4,174	26,992	23,032	21,043
Cleveland	10	7	8	2,234	1,896	2,180	13,951	11,017	8,687
Cumbria	32	62	36	2,905	2,165	2,296	29,096	30,774	20,366
Derbyshire	11	7	17	4,283	6,314	2,170	22,389	16,652	10,756
Devon and Cornwall	127	81	233	3,694	3,404	3,567	62,549	49,234	39,426
Dorset	15	19	14	1,575	1,560	2,368	36,900	26,086	23,050
Durham	13	7	6	1,400	1,427	1,485	3,138	3,531	3,359
Essex	109	95	99	14,723	15,741	15,746	44,796	25,956	30,423
Gloucestershire	9	3	6	1,244	1,149	1,549	9,380	7,547	4,339
Greater Manchester	19	46	243	18,357	19,918	15,699	42,609	37,330	41,817
Hampshire	44	53	73	9,013	8,590	4,781	49,324	36,719	29,460
Hertfordshire	18	12	7	5,513	3,975	3,431	41,593	34,945	29,724
Humberside	31	30	26	3,597	3,792	1,694	34,184	21,993	24,749
Kent	39	72	152	3,312	3,310	5,318	51,438	25,208	25,868
Lancashire	29	19	96	4,442	5,760	8,100	55,167	41,678	34,710
Leicestershire	12	5	4	1,212	1,187	1,202	20,634	15,506	12,899
Lincolnshire	34	37	25	5,146	3,992	2,321	24,849	26,834	18,619
London, City of	4	1	5	306	417	637	2,785	3,082	1,590
Merseyside	23	33	48	14,142	13,333	12,982	26,601	34,894	34,983
Metropolitan Police	108	116	91	14,303	15,291	16,594	73,738	94,955	44,197
Norfolk	21	41	32	1,913	2,114	3,044	24,878	20,359	28,474

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for various offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2007-09

	Offence description								
	Noise offences			*Seat belt offences*			*Speed limit offences*		
Police force area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North Yorkshire	202	77	170	7,532	6,215	4,309	7,748	7,779	8,425
Northamptonshire	13	5	2	1,217	1,347	1,629	49,833	14,716	11,585
Northumbria	34	29	66	4,476	3,173	1,895	38,504	39,410	22,345
Nottinghamshire	13	8	17	2,849	3,735	2,642	34,750	32,975	30,906
South Yorkshire	18	11	20	7,872	6,734	7,465	37,911	8,014	10,526
Staffordshire	18	17	224	4,073	2,870	3,141	31,547	35,269	35,027
Suffolk	75	137	11	4,556	5,846	2,694	30,378	34,678	42,055
Surrey	5	16	16	3,400	2,835	2,213	28,941	27,366	26,401
Sussex[1]	18	14	22	6,441	5,953	5,288	46,832	37,632	29,710
Thames Valley	44	44	32	13,472	13,728	12,408	54,385	53,909	57,781
Warwickshire	10	11	12	1,079	1,080	1,421	27,468	18,794	32,213
West Mercia	124	106	134	6,443	4,558	3,693	54,975	52,109	39,871
West Midlands	41	37	35	6,042	8,678	8,056	45,357	34,620	40,789
West Yorkshire	21	32	28	6,995	7,631	8,675	41,386	37,177	23,612
Wiltshire	13	20	27	2,062	2,269	1,697	36,959	30,338	51,992
England	1,474	1,448	2,195	206,696	205,866	185,564	1,377,111	1,147,619	1,034,632
Dyfed-Powys	14	12	33	1,764	1,462	1,528	10,842	10,746	10,758
Gwent	25	31	37	2,384	2,876	2,709	27,457	10,874	14,625
North Wales	55	80	68	6,723	9,014	9,030	42,537	29,327	27,648
South Wales	27	35	43	2,567	4,744	4,534	40,426	48,453	48,359
Wales	121	158	181	13,438	18,096	17,801	121,262	99,400	101,390
England and Wales	1,595	1,606	2,376	220,134	226,962	203,365	1,473,823	1,247,019	1,136,022

	Offence description					
	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences			*Use of hand-held mobile phone while driving*		
Police force area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	12,839	10,379	9,291	1,965	2,013	2,094
Bedfordshire	795	1,042	635	1,383	1,274	1,249
Cambridgeshire	7,198	6,850	4,795	2,189	2,487	1,964
Cheshire	13,891	6,576	2,844	4,055	3,270	3,776
Cleveland	1,091	557	566	1,495	1,151	1,420
Cumbria	525	510	542	978	754	1,081
Derbyshire	4,191	4,172	486	1,921	2,082	1,480
Devon and Cornwall	31,596	9,428	1,738	2,167	2,245	2,860
Dorset	359	294	265	1,924	1,489	1,475
Durham	6,129	4,366	3,222	1,075	933	953
Essex	3,732	2,709	2,310	5,006	6,553	7,971
Gloucestershire	12,133	1,054	880	963	800	1,183
Greater Manchester	3,831	2,854	3,361	8,477	6,274	6,123
Hampshire	4,347	3,006	2,233	5,290	5,152	4,037
Hertfordshire	1,901	2,236	1,701	2,720	3,637	3,793
Humberside	12,597	8,235	7,985	2,417	2,489	2,672
Kent	813	630	849	3,256	3,208	4,597
Lancashire	1,624	2,259	2,398	2,886	3,613	4,827
Leicestershire	4,057	1,519	1,643	1,073	1,071	1,752
Lincolnshire	11,648	11,260	13,876	2,043	2,109	1,626
London, City of	246	266	209	490	551	499
Merseyside	19,232	23,108	18,389	4,547	5,506	6,563
Metropolitan Police	23,018	15,493	11,582	11,399	8,537	7,383
Norfolk	6,283	5,538	6,721	1,196	1,816	2,350
North Yorkshire	5,783	3,693	2,647	2,647	2,333	2,273
Northamptonshire	2,548	1,996	2,403	760	973	1,543
Northumbria	12,905	8,366	6,676	2,701	2,056	2,280
Nottinghamshire	6,425	1,295	492	2,563	2,045	2,178
South Yorkshire	1,544	1,353	1,363	4,217	3,304	3,403
Staffordshire	10,362	3,255	6,165	1,872	1,148	1,747

	Offence description					
	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences			*Use of hand-held mobile phone while driving*		
Police force area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Suffolk	7,009	7,760	1,409	2,733	2,607	795
Surrey	2,198	1,062	1,377	2,781	2,939	2,605
Sussex[1]	34,428	23,335	20,128	2,683	0	3,623
Thames Valley	19,320	15,939	10,493	4,814	5,838	5,629
Warwickshire	7,203	3,210	2,196	1,481	1,487	1,875
West Mercia	3,147	2,022	1,544	3,900	4,314	3,408
West Midlands	20,355	16,968	12,720	5,340	5,373	6,112
West Yorkshire	16,186	12,252	10,726	4,962	4,041	4,708
Wiltshire	1,217	513	403	1,037	1,175	1,256
England	334,706	227,360	179,263	115,406	108,647	117,163
Dyfed-Powys	10,377	11,268	9,711	858	832	1,196
Gwent	17,467	16,760	13,466	1,160	1,174	1,265
North Wales	4,971	2,434	1,516	2,510	2,471	2,757
South Wales	79,298	73,980	60,146	2,122	2,802	3,135
Wales	112,113	104,442	84,839	6,650	7,279	8,353
England and Wales	446,824	331,802	264,102	122,056	115,926	125,516

[1] Figure for mobile phone FPNs for 2008 to be reviewed.

Immigration

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 417-8W, on immigration, what the total cost to the public purse was of cases pursued against the Government on asylum and immigration matters in all stages of the legal process including judicial review in the latest period for which figures are available. [64398]

Damian Green: The Home Office (UKBA) prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) adapted for the Public Sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The Home Office reports the total amount of legal payments made in its Resource Accounts and for 2009-10 this figure was £33.8 million, as published in the UKBA 2009-10 Annual Report.

This represents the costs of all payments to solicitors acting on behalf of the UK Border Agency, compensation paid and the payment of claimants' legal costs awarded by the courts.

The 2010-11 UKBA accounts are due to be published very soon and figures for 2010-11 will be available at that time.

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* other foreign nationals who have applied for leave to remain were convicted of a criminal offence committed in the UK while their application was pending in each of the last five years; and how many such people were returned to their country of origin following offences committed while their immigration applications were pending. [63850]

Damian Green: The following table shows the published figures for number of foreign nationals removed or deported from the UK. Please note that the data for 2006 are not considered to be reliable for publication.

	Number of foreign nationals removed or deported from the UK
2007	4,200
2008	5,400
2009	5,530
2010	5,235

It is not possible to identify from management information systems those who had an application for leave pending at the time they committed a criminal offence. In order to gather this information, the UK Border Agency would have to go through the individual records, which would incur disproportionate cost. However, any applications for leave are considered fully at the same time that deportation is considered prior to an individual's removal form the UK.

Rape

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of cases of alleged rape the victim reported the perpetrator to be a stranger in each of the last 10 years. [64417]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office collects data on the number of rape offences recorded by the police but information on the relationship between the victim and perpetrator are not held centrally.

Stop and Search

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police have authorised notices under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 *(a)* in each year between 2000 and 2011 and *(b)* in each (i) police authority area and (ii) in each London local authority area in each year since 2005. [64878]

Nick Herbert: The requested data on the number of authorisations to conduct section 60 stops and searches are not collected centrally. The number of stops and searches that are conducted under section 60 by each police force area are, however, collected centrally and the latest data are provided in the table. Statistics relating to police powers and procedures are collected at a police force area level and no data are available at local authority level. These data are published as part of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Police Powers and Procedures, current and previous copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Searches of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests, England and Wales, 2009-10

Numbers

	Stops and searches in anticipation of violence			
Police force area	*Searches*	*Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*	*Arrests for offensive weapons*	*Arrests for other reasons*
Cleveland	51	2	4	9
Durham	22	4	4	—
Northumbria	272	36	1	30
North East Region	345	42	9	39
Cheshire	59	17	—	—
Cumbria	314	4	4	5
Greater Manchester	2,463	4	4	45
Lancashire	3,639	11	11	98
Merseyside	15,811	136	20	459
North West Region	22,286	172	39	607
Humberside	7	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	6	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	668	2	1	11
West Yorkshire	314	32	27	8
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	995	34	28	19
—	55	52	1	—
Leicestershire	196	—	12	14
Lincolnshire	58	2	2	5
Northamptonshire	76	5	4	4
Nottinghamshire	366	276	25	1
East Midlands Region	751	335	44	24
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	657	9	1	2
West Mercia	200	6	3	7
West Midlands	815	1	1	9
West Midlands Region	1,672	16	5	18
Bedfordshire	192	—	—	4
Cambridgeshire	8	—	—	1
Essex	143	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	11	—	—	1
Norfolk	21	—	—	—
Suffolk	13	—	—	—
East of England Region	388	—	—	6
London, City of	123	1	1	2
Metropolitan Police	90,869	257	253	1,740
London Region	90,992	258	254	1,742
Hampshire	277	—	1	11
Kent	102	1	1	4
Surrey	19	—	—	1
Sussex	58	—	—	4

Searches of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests, England and Wales, 2009-10

Numbers

		Stops and searches in anticipation of violence		
Police force area	*Searches*	*Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*	*Arrests for offensive weapons*	*Arrests for other reasons*
Thames Valley	114	—	—	3
South East Region	570	1	2	23
Avon and Somerset	150	3	3	2
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	13	1	—	1
South West Region	163	4	3	3
England Total	118,162	862	384	2,481
Dyfed-Powys	2	—	—	—
Gwent	8	—	—	3
North Wales	211	2	—	2
South Wales	63	—	—	4
Wales Total	284	2	—	9
England and Wales (excluding BTP)	118,446	864	384	2,490
British Transport Police	1,527	50	50	43

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to encourage local authorities to provide funding for domestic and sexual violence and abuse services. [64092]

Lynne Featherstone: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), made clear in her speech to Women's Aid in July 2010, local authorities must not see this sector as an "easy cut" when making difficult decisions. The Home Office has made available £28 million funding over four years for specialist services for domestic and sexual violence victims and has encouraged local areas to provide match funding for each of these funding streams.

The Department is also working with other Departments and the voluntary sector to identify and disseminate best practice in local commissioning to ensure local authorities give this the priority it deserves.

Whitemoor Prison

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of any potential change in response time for a police helicopter to attend Whitemoor Prison arising from any change in existing arrangements for the provision of police helicopters in Cambridgeshire. [63988]

Nick Herbert: The proposal for a National Police Air Service (NPAS) has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that the police service continues to have access to a quickly deployable asset that can be used to tackle crime and protect the public but which also offers better value for money.

Under the proposal for NPAS, the Cambridgeshire aircraft will be withdrawn from service and air support will instead be provided from the helicopter based at RAF Honington in Suffolk. While the response time for a police helicopter to attend HMP Whitemoor would increase if the helicopter were responding from its base, the re-organisation of the current fleet will increase aircraft availability by 8% and ensure that Cambridgeshire will have access to a helicopter 24 hours a day as opposed to 19 hours a day under the existing arrangement.

JUSTICE

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65046]

Mr Blunt: Figures on the number of reasonable adjustments made for disabled staff to remove barriers and enable them to participate in the workplace as equally as non-disabled colleagues are not held centrally as many such adjustments are arranged locally between the line manager and the member of staff. The types of adjustment provided range from more frequent work breaks, adjustments to working hours to enable travel outside peaks times, to specialist equipment, adaptations to the work environment, and support workers. Guidance on supporting disabled staff is available for staff and managers and the Ministry is currently running an internal publicity campaign "supporting disability in the workplace" to raise awareness to staff and managers of the support and guidance available.

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were proceeded against for failing to surrender to court in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion received a custodial sentence for this offence. [64939]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts to immediate custody for offences relating to absconding while released on bail in England and Wales from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, sentenced and given a custodial sentence, by proportion of those sentenced, for absconding while released on bail[1], England and Wales, 2008-10[2, 3]

	2008[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Proceeded against	33,884	29,939	31,664
Found guilty	17,723	16,354	18,718
Sentenced	17,351	16,053	18,593
Of which:			
Immediate custody	2,347	1,723	2,024
Other sentence	15,004	14,330	16,569
Of those sentenced, proportion given immediate custody	14	11	11

[1] Bail Act 1976, section 6.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants released on bail (1) were found to have interfered with witnesses while awaiting trial in each year since 2001; [65257]

(2) absconded while awaiting trial in each year since 2001. [65258]

Mr Blunt: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not record how many defendants released on bail were found to have interfered with witnesses while awaiting trial.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for absconding while on bail in England and Wales, 2001 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for absconding[1], England and Wales, 2001-10[2, 3]

	Proceeded against for absconding while on bail
2001	45,047
2002	52,187
2003	57,562
2004	57,000
2005	52,262
2006	47,780
2007	41,341
2008[4]	33,884
2009	29,939
2010	31,664

[1] Bail Act 1976, section 6.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants released on bail committed offences whilst awaiting trial in each year since 2001. [65259]

Mr Blunt: The table shows, for the years 2001 to 2010, the number of defendants recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) in England and Wales as having received at least one conviction, caution, reprimand or warning during the year, and the number of these who were recorded as having committed at least one offence while on bail during the year.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the PNC, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. In particular the recording of information on whether or not the offence was committed while the offender was on bail is known to be incomplete. This is because the police have available to them a number of ways of recording the bail status of an offender of which the 'offence committed on bail' field on the PNC is one. For operational purposes forces make differing use of these various sources and as a result figures derived purely from the PNC do not provide a complete picture of these offences. Changes over time in these data may not represent real changes in offending while on bail.

Offenders who received a caution, reprimand, warning or conviction, as recorded on the Police National Computer and number who committed offences while on bail, 2001-10, England and Wales

Number of offenders and percentages

	Total number of offenders who received a caution, reprimand, warning or conviction	Offenders committing offences while on bail: Number	Offenders committing offences while on bail: Percentage
2001	639,272	51,759	8.1
2002	657,464	55,188	8.4
2003	685,710	56,545	8.2
2004	691,904	54,963	7.9
2005	723,663	59,926	8.3
2006	763,164	65,973	8.6
2007	785,729	75,105	9.6
2008	755,083	73,359	9.7
2009	718,494	72,030	10.0
2010	671,029	70,496	10.5

Bail and Remand in Custody

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were granted bail in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2004, *(h)* 2003, *(i)* 2002 and *(j)* 2001; [65090]

(2) how many people were remanded in custody in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2004, *(h)* 2003, *(i)* 2002 and *(j)* 2001; [65091]

(3) how many people remanded in custody in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2004, *(h)* 2003, *(i)* 2002 and *(j)* 2001 subsequently received a custodial sentence; [65092]

(4) how many people remanded in custody in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2004, *(h)* 2003, *(i)* 2002 and *(j)* 2001 subsequently received a suspended sentence; [65093]

(5) how many people remanded in custody in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2004, *(h)* 2003, *(i)* 2002 and *(j)* 2001 were subsequently acquitted. [65094]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants granted bail and the number remanded in custody, together with the outcome, can be viewed in the following table:

Defendants proceeded against by type of remand and final outcome at magistrates courts[1] and tried at the Crown court in England and Wales, 2001 to 2010[2], England and Wales

Defendants (thousand)

Remand status/final outcome	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[3]	2009	2010
Bailed	488.8	513.3	524.5	550.8	514.4	493.8	485.2	441.2	551.4	552.1
Remanded in custody[4]	85.1	109.2	106.7	90.7	82.2	76.7	74.5	77.5	71.5	69.4
Of which:										
Acquitted[5]	19.3	21.6	22.4	17.0	14.5	12.8	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.9
Suspended sentence	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	1.1	3.9	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.3
Immediate custody[6]	38.9	49.5	47.7	43.7	41.3	39.7	38.8	43.1	43.4	40.0

[1] Magistrates courts data presented in this table exclude committals for trial or sentence, and for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, those defendants who failed to appear.
[2] Magistrates courts data are estimated.
[3] Excludes remands data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
[4] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.
[5] Includes those defendants acquitted or not proceeded against.
[6] Includes detention in a young offender institution, detention and training orders and unsuspended imprisonment.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

Coroners: Domestic Violence

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to provide training to coroners on domestic violence. [64160]

Mr Djanogly: The next series of continuation training courses for coroners and coroner's officers is currently being designed. This will include a lecture on unlawful killing and homicide which will include reference to domestic violence.

Courts: Private Sector

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers a private sector operator of the contract for criminal court enforcement will have in relation to the collection of unpaid fines. [65398]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service are developing a strategy for the enforcement of fines and how best to improve this in the future. This could include forming a partnership with a commercial partner. Details of any partnership with a commercial company to deliver enforcement functions for criminal court fines are not yet known.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to what quality assurance procedures private sector companies will be subject in the bidding process for private supervision of criminal court enforcement. [65399]

Mr Djanogly: No tender process has commenced as yet for the provision of enforcement functions. Any published tender documentation will specify the relevant quality assurance procedures that would need to be followed.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for the exchange of information between HM Courts Service and private companies; and what steps he has taken to ensure that such arrangements comply with data protection regulations following the completion of the tendering process for criminal court enforcement. [65400]

Mr Djanogly: The tender for the provision of enforcement functions and any resulting contract awarded would include the necessary wording to highlight that the bidding supplier would need to comply with the Data Protection Act regulations already in place.

Drug Interventions Programme

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were registered with the Drug Interventions Programme in the last six months for which figures are available. [64157]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) is a crime reduction approach which local partners use to identify, assess and manage drug misusing offenders in order to help them address their drug misuse and reduce drug related offending. Individuals do not register with DIP. Over the latest six months for which data are available (November 2010-April 2011), 30,730 assessments were carried out under the Drug Interventions Programme on 23,391 individuals.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* homeless people and *(b)* people with no fixed address registered with the Drug Interventions Programme in the last 12 months. [64158]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) is a crime reduction approach which local areas use to identify, assess and manage drug misusing offenders in order to help them address their drug misuse and reduce drug related offending.

Information on individuals' housing needs are collected as part of the DIP assessment of needs.

Over the latest 12 months for which data are available (May 2010-April 2011), 62,490 assessments were carried out and 61,677 (99%) had an accommodation status recorded, as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
No fixed abode	4,598	7.5
Temporary	10,623	17.2
Settled	46,456	75.35

Euthanasia

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will conduct a review of the operation of the Suicide Act 1961 in relation to the law on assisted suicide. [64808]

Mr Blunt: The Government have no plans to review the operation of the Suicide Act in England and Wales.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on legal aid for people charged with *(a)* murder, *(b)* unlawful sex with a minor, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* rape, *(e)* manslaughter, *(f)* knife crimes and *(g)* robbery in the latest year for which figures are available. [64818]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to fully answer the question in the exact format requested as the Legal Services Commission (LSC) do not record offences in the manner requested.

Table A shows the amounts paid for all offences heard in the magistrates courts.

Tables B and C show the amounts paid for proceedings under the available offence categories in the Crown court for cases not funded by a high cost case contract and those cases that are funded by a high cost case contract.

Table A: Crime lower spend by offence type

	£ million
Offences against the person	62.7
Theft (including taking vehicle without consent)	35.5
Burglary	12.2
Public order offences	25.2
Drug offences	14.2
Other offences	27.8
Criminal damage	11.2
Fraud and forgery and other offences of dishonesty not otherwise categorised	11.6
Driving and motor vehicle offences (other than those covered by codes 1, 6 and 7	16.4
Sexual offences and associated offences against children	5.4
Robbery	4.2
Homicide and related grave offences	0.5
Other prescribed proceedings	3.9
Anti-social behaviour orders	1.8
Sexual offender orders	0.3
Terrorism	0.1
Other post-charge	33.4
Prison Law	25.2

Table B: Crown court spend by offence type excluding very high cost cases

Offence type	*£ million*
A—Homicide and related grave offences	101.9
B—Offences involving serious violence or damage and serious drug offences	174.6
C—Lesser offences involving violence or damage, and less serious drug offences	66.2
D—Serious sexual offences, offences against children	62
E—Burglary, etc	13.4
F—Other offences of dishonesty	111.6
H—Miscellaneous lesser offences (including non-fatal motoring offences)	39.7
I—Offences against public justice	8.8
Court of appeal, Confiscation hearings, Payments on Accounts and Disbursements	47.2

Table C: VHCC spend by offence type

Offence type	*£ million*
Murder	4.4
Other violence	0.8
Rape	0

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the contribution of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1064, what the evidential basis is for the statement that in 1999 claimant costs represented 50% of damages but that by 2010 the figure had risen to 150%. [64961]

Mr Djanogly: The figures relating to the increase in claimant costs to which the hon. Gentleman refers were included in "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response", published on 29 March 2011. Paragraph 20 refers to the evidence provided by a general liability insurer that in 1999 claimant solicitors' costs were equivalent to 56% of the damages awarded. By 2003 that figure had increased to 103%, and by 2010 average claimant costs represented 142% of the damages received by the injured victims.

Legal Systems: Islam

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what information his Department holds on which communities have sharia councils; [64459]

(2) what his policy is on the role of sharia councils within the justice system; [64460]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women on sharia councils. [64461]

Mr Djanogly: Sharia councils are not part of the justice system of England and Wales and the Government have made it clear that they have no intention of making any change to that position.

Provided an activity prescribed by sharia law does not contravene the law of England and Wales, there is nothing that prevents people living by sharia principles. People are free to submit a dispute to a sharia council if they wish to do so and can if they wish formalise any agreement made by asking a court in England and Wales to reflect this in an order made with the consent of the parties. Any member of the community is also free to submit the case to a court in England and Wales if they wish for a decision to be made by the court.

As sharia councils are not part of the justice system the Government do not collate or hold any information on sharia councils or the gender breakdown within them. The previous Government did, however, commission an exploratory study of sharia councils in England with respect to family law. This identified a number of challenges to undertaking robust research in this area. The study was therefore limited and adds little to the evidence base. In particular, the findings cannot be regarded as a representative assessment of the operation of sharia councils. Following expert peer review of the draft report, the Ministry of Justice decided not to publish the findings.

Prison Sentences

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to his statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 165, on sentencing reform, when he intends to publish the findings of the review of imprisonment for public protection; and if he will make a statement; [65101]

(2) whether the review of imprisonment for public protection will affect prisoners already held under the rule. [65102]

Mr Blunt: As the Prime Minister announced on 21 June 2011, we are carrying out an urgent review of the sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) with a view to replacing the existing IPP regime with a tough determinate sentence framework which would be better understood by the public and command greater confidence.

As part of this review, we will also consider the Parole Board arrangements for rehabilitation of those offenders with IPPs to ensure that real work is done to reform offenders while in prison.

We will bring forward proposals for legislation in the autumn.

Prisoners' Release: Re-offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by people who were released on *(a)* police and *(b)* court bail in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [64746]

Mr Blunt: The table shows, for the years 2008 to 2010, the number of offences recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) in England and Wales that resulted in a conviction, caution, reprimand or warning and the number of these that were recorded as being committed while the offender was on bail. The data do not enable us to distinguish between police bail and court bail.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the PNC, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. In particular the recording of information on whether or not the offence was committed while the offender was on bail is known to be incomplete. This is because the police have available to them a number of ways of recording the bail status of an offender of which the 'offence committed on bail' field on the PNC is one. For operational purposes forces make differing use of these various sources and as a result figures derived purely from the PNC do not provide a complete picture of these offences; changes over time in these data may not represent real changes in offending while on bail.

Offences resulting in a caution, reprimand, final warning or conviction, as recorded on the Police National Computer and offences committed on bail 2008-10, England and Wales

		Number of offences and percentages	
		Offences committed on bail	
	Total number of offences	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008	1,518,845	153,688	10.1
2009	1,426,082	146,681	10.3
2010	1,329,343	142,537	10.7

Prisons: Employment

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1023-24W, on prisons: employment, whether he has plans to increase the number of prisoners per day working in the National Offender Management Service public sector prison industries who are engaged in land-based activities on farms in East Anglia. [64716]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service operates one farm in East Anglia, at HM Prison North Sea Camp, although there are a number of other prisons in the area that provide land-based activities for prisoners on a smaller scale.

As set out in the recent Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" we are currently reviewing the opportunities for increasing the numbers of prisoners that experience the discipline of regular working hours across all sectors including land-based activities. We are also looking to further develop the skills needed by prisoners to gain employment on release from prison. For the farm at HM Prison North Sea camp this includes the possibility of working with a private sector partner to achieve this.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what milestones he has set for his plans to enable more prisoners to work; and if he will make a statement. [64717]

Mr Blunt: We will publish further details of our implementation strategy in relation to the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" this autumn.

Remand in Custody

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were remanded in custody on the grounds of *(a)* being accused of a serious offence, *(b)* being convicted of similar offences on previous occasions, *(c)* risk of absconding, *(d)* risk of interference with witnesses and *(e)* risk of committing further offences in each year since 2001; [65260]

(2) how many people remanded in custody in each year since 2001 subsequently received a custodial sentence that was served fully on remand. [65261]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of defendants remanded in custody collated by the Ministry of Justice from the Court Proceedings Database does not include details of all the circumstances surrounding each case. The reasons for remanding a defendant in custody could be ascertained only by reference to individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Information on bail and remand collected by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not record the length of time defendants spent on remand.

Sexual Offences

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to assess the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* circumstances of false allegations of rape and sexual assault. [65281]

Mr Blunt: The Stern Review found that insufficient reliable empirical evidence existed on a key number of areas relating to rape, such as false allegations. In response the Government commissioned an analysis of police and CPS case files, relating to cases proceeded against for serious sexual and violent offences. The analysis is being undertaken by TNS-BMRB following a competitive tender through the MOJ Research Framework. The project will include a more detailed analysis of aspects specific to rape cases (factors related to attrition and case outcome), in order to inform the debate about false allegations (extent and nature). The project is under way and a report of the findings will be published in accordance with the Government Social Research Publication Guidelines when it is ready.

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/GSR%20Publication%20Guidance%20-%2029%20Jan%202010_tcm6-35775.pdf

Tribunals: Autism

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parents of autistic children went to a tribunal to challenge the support provided to their child in school in the last year for which figures are available. [65067]

Mr Djanogly: The number of appeals made by parents of autistic children to the First-tier Tribunal—Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, was 1,019 out of a total of 3,280 registered appeals[1]. Further information on the number and type of appeals made to SEND is available within the Tribunal's annual report at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/tribunals/send.htm

[1] These data are taken from the 2009-10 Annual Report and represent management information recorded on an academic year basis (September 2009 to August 2010).

Victim Support Schemes

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to the Salvation Army's new trafficking victim support scheme in the first week of July 2011; and by whom. [65053]

Mr Blunt: In the first week of July 2011, seven individuals were referred to the Salvation Army's support system for adult victims of human trafficking. The referrals were made by charities, the police, youth justice services and the health service.

EDUCATION

Administration

19. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of administration on schools. [64615]

Mr Gibb: To reduce the bureaucratic burden on schools we have already scrapped the Self Evaluation Form; we are replacing the Financial Management Standard in Schools, streamlining the inspection framework; removing unnecessary regulation and dramatically reducing the volume of guidance issued to schools. We have also recently announced proposals to reduce the bureaucracy around the Early Years Foundation Stage and simplify assessment at age five.

Youth Services

20. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the change in his Department's funding of youth services in *(a)* Manchester Central constituency and *(b)* England in 2011-12. [64617]

Tim Loughton: The Department's funding for youth services for 2011-12 is included in the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The EIG allocation for Manchester local authority has changed from £34.25 million in 2010-11 to £29.97 million in 2011-12, a reduction of around 12.5%, and is reduced by 10.5% for England as a whole. Money for youth services is not ring-fenced within the EIG and decisions on funding levels to youth services are for local authorities.

22. **Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the future of youth services. [64619]

Tim Loughton: Youth services should help young people to aspire and achieve. They should be driven by young people's views, be rooted in local communities and supported by businesses. Local authorities should ensure disadvantaged young people get early help. They should open up services to a wider range of providers, including the voluntary sector. Building on our Youth Summit in March the Government will publish a policy statement on youth services in the autumn, following further consultation with young people and others.

Curriculum

21. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the breadth of the curriculum. [64618]

Mr Gibb: We are currently reviewing the national curriculum. As part of that review, we have carried out a call for evidence which attracted nearly 5,800 responses, including many which raised issues about the breadth of the curriculum.

The national curriculum sets out the curriculum which all maintained schools must teach but it is only part of the wider curriculum which is determined by schools themselves. All schools are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum.

Careers Service

23. **Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to issue his transition plan for the careers service. [64620]

Tim Loughton: The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), committed during an Education Bill debate to hold a summit for interested parties focused on issues of transition to the new arrangements for young people's careers guidance. The summit will take place this Friday 15 July. Following the event we will set out key milestones for the transition period up to September 2012, to support local authorities' own transition planning. We will also look to share examples of the models being developed at local level. This material will be made available on the Local Government Association's Communities of Practice website.

Teaching Unions: Meeting

24. **Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he next expects to meet representatives of teaching unions. [64621]

Michael Gove: The Minister of State for Schools and I each meet the General Secretaries of the head teacher and teacher unions once a term both individually and collectively and I am scheduled to meet them again later this month.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Grievance Procedures

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* group grievances were taken out by staff employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales in 2010. [65029]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold this information; this is an operational matter for which CAFCASS is responsible. CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, has written to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 7 July 2011:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently: The response applies to England only.

The number of formal grievances was 39 of which 2 were group formal grievances during the period 1 April 2010-31 March 2011.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Sick Leave

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many persons employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales were classed as being on long-term sick leave in 2010. [65028]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold this information; this is an operational matter for which CAFCASS is responsible. CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, has written to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 7 July 2011:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently: The response applies to England only.

The number of employees classed as being on long term sick was 242 during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. Long term is classed as anyone being away from work for a period of 20 working days.

Children: Protection

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many serious case reviews were carried out by each local authority *(a)* in each year between 1999 and 2010 and *(b)* in 2011 to date. [59551]

Tim Loughton: Ofsted assumed responsibility for the inspection of children's social care and local authorities became responsible for notifying Ofsted of serious incidents involving children from 1 April 2007. Data on the numbers of serious case reviews (SCRs) initiated following the notification of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor are therefore available from 1 April 2007. The table with these figures broken down by each local authority has been placed in the House Libraries.

It is the responsibility of LSCBs to decide whether to initiate SCRs, in line with regulations and statutory guidance.

Decisions taken by LSCBs on whether the criteria to undertake SCRs have been met are normally taken within one month of a case coming to the attention of the LSCB chair. However, in practice decisions may take longer and may be revisited in light of additional information, such as new medical evidence or the outcome of a coroner's inquest, which may subsequently become available. Therefore, there may be variations in the data included in this table over time.

The Munro Review of child protection has recommended how to strengthen the SCR process to enable lessons to be learnt more effectively and the Government will respond by the summer.

The figures in the table include data provided for earlier parliamentary answers. For the year 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the data published in a previous reply issued on 23 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 442W. For the year 2008-09, data referring to SCRs initiated following the notification to Ofsted of a death of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor were published on 22 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1664W. Data collected at the same time for SCRs initiated following the notification to Ofsted of a serious injury of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor have been added to these published figures to get a total of all SCRs in that period. Figures for the years 2009-2010 and 2010-11 have not yet been published. It is not possible to provide figures from April 2011 to the current date because many of the decisions about whether to initiate a SCR will still be outstanding and the figures would therefore not be reliable.

Data are not available in this form prior to 1 April 2007. The Department has however commissioned five biennial analyses of SCRs to help ensure lessons are clearly identified and disseminated. These publications include data on how many SCRs were included in each study. Links to these research reports are:

Building on the learning from serious case reviews: A two-year analysis of child protection database notifications 2007-09

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFE-RR040

Understanding serious case reviews and their impact—a biennial analysis of serious case reviews 2005-07

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-RR129

Analysing Child Deaths and Serious Injury through Abuse: What can we Learn? A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2003-05

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014591/index.shtml

Improving Safeguarding Practice—Study of Serious Case Reviews 2001-03

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014711/index.shtml

Learning from Past Experience—A Review of Serious Case Reviews

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003094

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many serious case reviews were carried out in each year from 2005 to 2010. [61002]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Ofsted assumed responsibility for the inspection of children's social care and local authorities became responsible for notifying Ofsted of serious incidents involving children from 1 April 2007. Data on the numbers of serious case reviews (SCRs) initiated following the notification of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor are therefore available from 1 April 2007. These figures are set out in the following table.

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Decisions taken by LSCBs on whether the criteria to undertake SCRs have been met are normally taken within one month of a case coming to the attention of the LSCB chair. However, in practice decisions may take longer and may be revisited in light of additional information, such as new medical evidence or the outcome of a coroner's inquest, which may subsequently become available. Therefore, there may be variations in the data included in this table over time.

The Munro review of child protection has recommended how to strengthen the SCR process to enable lessons to be learnt more effectively and the Government will respond by the summer.

The figures in the table include data provided for earlier parliamentary answers. For the year 2007-08, I refer the right hon. Member to the data published in a previous reply issued on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W. For the year 2008-09, data referring to SCRs initiated following the notification to Ofsted of a death of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor were published on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1664W. Data collected at the same time for SCRs initiated following the notification to Ofsted of a serious injury of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor have been added to these published figures to get a total of all SCRs in that period. Figures for 2009-10 have not yet been published.

Data are not available in this form prior to 1 April 2007. The Department has however commissioned five biennial analyses of SCRs to help ensure lessons are clearly identified and disseminated. These publications include data on how many SCRs were included in each study. A link to the research report for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 is:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-RR129

Understanding serious case reviews and their impact—a biennial analysis of serious case reviews 2005-07.

Number of SCRs initiated, as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2011

	Number
Number of SCRs initiated as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008[1]	149
Number of SCRs initiated as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 (At the time there were three further cases awaiting a decision)[2]	132
Number of SCRs initiated as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010[3]	124

[1] Source—Data from reply issued 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W.

[2] Source—Data for child death element from PQ published on 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1664W, with information on serious injury added from figures collected at same time.

[3] Includes information available to DFE as at 30 June 2011

Special Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62064]

Tim Loughton: The special advisers at the Department for Education have claimed no expenses in the last 12 months, other than for subsistence, travel and telephone bills. The Department has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63565]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not currently record within its finance systems information about the size of its suppliers. The Department is working with our shared service provider to explore ways to provide more comprehensive reporting in particular on small and medium-sized employers.

For the period June 2010 to May 2011 a total number of 48,464 invoices were processed and paid on behalf of the Department by our shared services provider, of which 78% were paid within the Government's target of payment within five days.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64431]

Tim Loughton: It is always the wish of the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) and the rest of his ministerial team to accept any meeting request from an hon. Member, irrespective of the political party they may belong to. Regrettably, due to diary pressures and business needs it is not always possible to accommodate all meeting requests. To obtain accurate details of declined meeting requests would incur disproportionate cost.

Education

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the merits of encouraging children to study *(a)* religious education, *(b)* classical civilisation and *(c)* music. [64952]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received over 2,500 letters setting out the merits of children studying a range of GCSE subjects including religious education, classical civilisation and music, in relation to the English Baccalaureate. We agree that these are rigorous, engaging and valuable subjects that can play an important part in a well rounded education, either alongside the English Baccalaureate or for pupils who make a different choice of subjects.

Education: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements are in place for councils to claim funding in respect of children educated outside schools or colleges; and if he will make a statement. [64133]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities can claim Dedicated Schools Grant funding for children educated outside schools or colleges through the annual Alternative Provision (AP) census.

The underlying principle of the AP census is that it should cover pupils resident in a local authority receiving education with an alternative provider (a provider not covered by the other pupil data collections—School Census, Early Years Census and School Level Annual School Census (SLASC)). These are pupils whose education is the financial responsibility of the local authority, using either the schools budget or the schools budget with contributions from the wider local authority budget, such as another part of the children's services budget, the health authority or another local authority. The alternative provider may be situated either within or outside the local authority area.

This includes:

(a) Pupils receiving home tuition for whom the local authority is financially responsible, including those requiring SEN support;

(b) Pupils receiving tuition whilst in hospital (provided they are not recorded on another data collection);

(c) Pupils of compulsory school age, not registered at a school, being educated at FE colleges and for whom the local authority is financially responsible, and asylum seekers of compulsory school age attending FE colleges or with voluntary sector providers;

(d) Statemented or non-statemented pupils at an independent school for whom the local authority pays the fees (educational element only, not boarding fees);

(e) Pupils attending a special school not maintained by a local authority for whom the local authority pays the fees;

(f) Pupils held in a unit for their own safety, where the authority is paying for the education, although the unit is in another authority;

(g) Pupils not on a school roll elsewhere and held at a detention centre where the local authority is fully financially responsible for the pupil; and

(h) Pupils for whom the authority is paying for education in any of the alternative providers covered above but taking place outside England.

Although local authorities have statutory responsibility for elective home educated pupils, this does not constitute being fully financially responsible for the child, and so these are not eligible for DSG funding.

English Baccalaureate: Teachers

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the number of academic institutions offering post-graduate PGCE courses in core English Baccalaureate subjects. [64950]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education estimates the number of teacher training places (including those on Post Graduate Certificates in Education courses) needed for each subject. This includes consideration of the effects of changes such as the introduction of the English Baccalaureate qualification. The Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) allocates these places to academic institutions and other providers of initial teacher training. The TDA formally notifies the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), a non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, of the allocation of places to institutions, but this is not broken down by subject.

Family Courts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many guardians ad litem were employed by family courts in England and Wales in 2010. [65030]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold this information; this is an operational matter for which CAFCASS is responsible. CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, has written to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 7 July 2011:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently. The response applies to England only.

The number of Family Court Advisers employed by Cafcass as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Family Courts Advisers—1,110

Self Employed Contractors—approximately 350.

It is important to note that the family courts are not the employers of those who work as guardians ad litem and that both employed Family Court Advisers and self-employed contractors are able to be appointed by the courts to fulfil the functions of a guardian ad litem.

Family Intervention

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding was allocated to family intervention projects in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10, *(d)* 2010-11 and *(e)* 2011-12. [65002]

Tim Loughton: The Government allocated £9,049,684 in 2007-08, £11,201,586 in 2008-09, £33,604,489 in 2009-10, £49,789,569 in 2010-11 and £46 million in 2011-12 for family intervention projects/services. The ring fence for this funding was removed in May 2010.

Free Schools

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* any criteria to be applied in planning issues and *(b)* the process for determining planning issues in relation to the establishment of free schools. [64064]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has had a number of discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), on this issue. We will announce any further steps on improving the planning system in relation to free schools in due course.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what forecasts of the primary school population his Department prepared for the purposes of determining future levels of capital funding in the last five years. [64009]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to prepare their primary pupil forecasts. As part of the strategic management of their schools, we require authorities to produce a forecast of the number of pupils in their primary schools five years ahead and seven years ahead for secondary schools.

The Department collects pupil forecast information from each local authority through an annual survey and utilises the forecasts in order to calculate the capital funding allocations to local authorities to provide extra places for future growth in pupil numbers.

Primary Education: Registration

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what identification documentation is required to register a child at a state primary school. [64654]

Mr Gibb: There are no national requirements placed on schools or parents to provide identifying documentation when registering a child at a school. However, in applying for a place at a state-funded primary school, parents will be asked by the local authority to complete a common application form allowing them to state a minimum of three preferences. In completing that form parents must provide their name and address, and any documentary evidence in support, as well as the name, address and date of birth of the child. In some case, the local authority will need to ask for supplementary information in order to process applications. If they do so, they must only use supplementary information forms that request information that has a direct bearing on decisions about over-subscription criteria. Once a place has been offered, admission authorities may ask for proof of date of birth.

Education Provision

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what statutory obligations local education authorities have to *(a)* identify school age children in their area and *(b)* ensure they are in receipt of appropriate education. [64653]

Mr Gibb: Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 (inserted by Section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a suitable education. Revised statutory guidance was published in January 2009 to help local authorities effectively implement the duty.

The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school (for example, at home, privately, or in alternative provision).

The statutory guidance sets out that local authorities should:

> have a named individual responsible for identifying children missing education, whose role includes proactively tracking pupils; and
>
> have a co-ordinated and centralised system in place for tracking children missing education. Local authorities are also expected to work, and share information, with other local authorities and agencies in order that children moving from one area to another can be tracked.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 353W, on pupils: disadvantaged, what consideration he has given to extending the pupil premium for children whose parents are serving in the armed forces to children whose parents have died in service in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [62787]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and its key focus is providing additional funding to schools to support deprived children. Our priority for its introduction has been to make sure that funding for the premium is simple and transparent so that schools know how it is calculated and can work out how much they will receive. Mainstream schools with children whose parents are in the armed forces will benefit from the service premium and will receive in 2011-12 £200 for every pupil recorded as a service child on the January 2011 school census. We will consider carefully whether the service premium could be extended to pupils whose parents have died in service in the armed forces.

Pupils: Truancy

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many prosecutions of parents were brought by local education authorities for non-attendance at school of school age children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those prosecuted were from Traveller communities. [64651]

Mr Gibb: The number of people proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 in England and the Northamptonshire police force area in 2010 (latest available) are in the following table.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the court proceedings database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is not possible to identify from centrally held information whether a defendant is from a Traveller community.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences under section 444 of the Education Act 1996[1] *in England and Northamptonshire police force area, 2010*[2,3]

Area	*Proceeded against*
England	11,260
Of which:	
Northamptonshire	104

[1] Offences under section 444 of the Education Act 1996: Parent's failure to secure child's regular attendance at school. Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems, generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

School Meals

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to amend statutory school food standards to align them with Government buying standards for food and catering services. [64361]

Sarah Teather: The Government are not proposing to amend the statutory school food standards to align them with Government buying standards for food and catering services. The school food standards are already stricter than those included in the Government buying standards.

The Government buying standards only apply to central Government although schools and local authorities may wish to consider using them.

The Government support the procurement of locally produced, seasonal produce from sustainable sources and have been working with a number of organisations including Pro 5, a leading procurement organisation that works with local authorities, to establish framework contracts that will help schools and local authorities to procure quality goods efficiently.

Schools: Capital Investment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate in 2011 prices the cost of each school capital construction project *(a)* approved, *(b)* opened and *(c)* cancelled in each year since 1997. [63985]

Mr Gibb: Full information is not held centrally in the form requested. Since 1997 capital support has largely been allocated formulaically to local authorities and schools in order for them to decide their investment priorities in accordance with local asset management plans. However, there are data held centrally relating to the BSF and Academies programmes, and I will write to the hon. Member with this information, and place a copy of the letter in the House Libraries.

Schools: Closures

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 757W, on school closures (Thursday), what assessment he made of the use of the flexibilities at the disposal of schools to ensure that they stayed open on 30 June 2011. [64661]

Mr Gibb: To minimise the impact of industrial action, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), wrote to all local authorities on 23 June, to lay out the flexibilities at the disposal of schools to ensure that they stayed open.

In that letter he asked local authorities to share with the Department their best practice and examples of schools working innovatively and successfully to stay open. We will be reviewing these examples over the coming weeks, as they come in to us.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many days annually on average schools were closed due to strike action between *(a)* 1979 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2010; and what assessment he has made of likely trends in days lost to such action in the next four years. [64953]

Mr Gibb: While the Department for Education published information on school closures associated with the industrial action on 30 June, figures have not routinely been collected by this Department on the number of days that schools have closed due to industrial action between 1979 and 2010. It is not possible to predict the number of days on which schools might close in the event of future industrial action.

Schools: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools were assessed by Ofsted as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate in South Lakeland district council area in each of the last five years. [63905]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. John Goldup, National Director, Development and Strategy has written to my hon. Friend, on behalf of HM chief inspector. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from John Goldup, dated 4 July 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for response. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is currently on leave, and I am replying on her behalf.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections/ including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Tables A to E below show the number of maintained schools judged outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 inclusive in South Lakeland District and England.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment and deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools each year and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. This led to a skew in the sample of schools inspected and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Maintained-schools/Inspection-outcomes

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11 were released on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Tables A to E: Schools overall effectiveness judgment at their section 5 inspection in South Lakeland district in each of the last five academic years

2005/06

		Overall effectiveness judgment (proportion of schools)			
	Total inspected	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
South Lakeland district	15	13	47	33	7
England	6,128	11	48	34	8

2006/07

		Overall effectiveness judgment (proportion of schools)			
	Total inspected	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
South Lakeland district	30	3	70	17	10
England	8,323	14	47	34	6

2007/08

		Overall effectiveness judgment (proportion of schools)			
	Total inspected	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
South Lakeland district	26	15	58	19	8
England	7,866	15	49	32	5

2008/09

		Overall effectiveness judgment (proportion of schools)			
	Total inspected	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
South Lakeland district	16	6	88	6	0
England	7,065	19	50	28	4

2009/10

		Overall effectiveness judgment (proportion of schools)			
	Total inspected	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
South Lakeland district	20	25	55	10	10
England	6,171	13	43	37	8

Schools: Finance

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much basic need funding was allocated to schools in each year since 1997. [64021]

Mr Gibb: Capital allocations to local authorities, since 1997-98, to support investment in schools relating to basic need, were as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	359
1998-99	286
1999-2000	274
2000-01	357
2001-02	452
2002-03	401
2003-04	475
2004-05	566
2005-06	504
2006-07	445
2007-08	400
2008-09	423
2009-10	419
2010-11	666
2011-12 (provisional)	800

Schools: Translation Services

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to schools of the provision of English translation services; and if he will make a statement. [63833]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect this information.

Youth Services: Finance

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the change in his Department's funding of youth services in *(a)* Kingston upon Hull East constituency and *(b)* England in 2011-12. [64616]

Tim Loughton: The Department's funding for youth services for 2011-12 and beyond is included in the early intervention grant (EIG). The EIG allocation for Kingston upon Hull local authority has changed from £16.59 million in 2010-11 to £14.52 million in 2011-12, a reduction of around 12.5%, and is reduced by 10.5% for England as a whole. Money for youth services is not ring fenced within the EIG and decisions on funding levels for youth services are for local authorities.

HEALTH

Air Pollution: Death

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died as a result of conditions caused by air pollution in each of the last five years. [64388]

Anne Milton: Deaths from air pollution are not recorded as a specific cause. However, the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants estimated[1] on the basis of 2008 data, that fine particulate air pollution (measured as $PM_{2.5}$) had an effect on the mortality of the United Kingdom population equivalent to 29,000 deaths in 2008. However, the Committee considered it very unlikely that this represents the number of individuals affected. Instead it speculated that air pollution, acting together with other factors, may have made some smaller contribution to the earlier deaths of up to 200,000 people.

Estimates have not been made on a year-by-year basis. However, in years close to 2008 that are likely to be similar to 2008, in terms of both $PM_{2.5}$ levels and population characteristics, the effect on mortality would be similar to that calculated for 2008.

[1] The Mortality Effects of Long Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution in the United Kingdom:

www.comeap.org.uk/documents/128-the-mortality-effects-of-long-term-exposure-to-particulate-air-pollution-in-the-uk.html

Public Health Strategy

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how *(a)* speech and language therapists and *(b)* allied health professionals will be involved in the development of his public health work force strategy. [65251]

Anne Milton: The Department will publish a consultation document on a public health work force strategy in the autumn. To inform this work a Public Health Workforce Strategy Working Group, chaired by a regional director of public health has been established. Members of the group include representatives from a range of health and local government organisations, including the co-chair of the National Allied Health Professional Advisory Board. Speech and language therapists are an integral part of the allied health professions.

Autism

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients who requested an autistic spectrum disorder diagnostic test in *(a)* Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England received such a test in the last 12 months. [64184]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future support for speech and language therapy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions in Wolverhampton.. [64185]

Paul Burstow: The provision of NHS services, including speech and language therapy, is a matter for the national health service locally.

Cancer: Drugs

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the East Midlands Cancer Drugs Fund spent in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 to date. [64247]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011 to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. We also made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,400 patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

The latest available information shows that NHS East Midlands spent £1.632 million on additional cancer drugs between 1 October 2010 and the end of March 2011. Information for 2011-12 is not yet available.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the East Midlands Cancer Drugs Fund producing an *(a)* overspend and *(b)* underspend in 2011-12. [64248]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made no assessment about the likelihood of an overspend or an underspend on the Cancer Drugs Fund allocation made to NHS East Midlands. This funding was allocated on a weighted capitation basis, following consultation on arrangements for the fund, and the Department will be monitoring spend during the current financial year.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the East Midlands Cancer Drugs Fund spent on Avastin for *(a)* first line and *(b)* second line treatment for bowel cancer in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12 to date. [64306]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on the specific indications for which drugs have been funded through the cancer drugs funding arrangements for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

A breakdown of strategic health authority expenditure by drug for 2010-11 is not yet available. We will write to the hon. Member with this information when it is available. The Department is currently establishing monitoring arrangements for 2011-12.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which regions the Cancer Drugs Fund provides funding for *(a)* first line and *(b)* second line treatment for bowel cancer with Avastin; and how much each region has spent on Avastin in each case since the launch of the new fund. [64307]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on the specific indications for which drugs have been funded through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Decisions on which drugs to fund are a matter for each strategic health authority (SHA) clinical panel.

In its summary of clinically agreed drugs, East Midlands SHA has included Avastin (bevacizumab) for the first line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer and first line treatment of renal cell carcinoma that is intolerant to pazopanib and sunitinib. Further information is available at:

www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/cancer-drugs-fund/?locale=en

The Department is currently establishing monitoring arrangements for 2011-12. Information relating to individual cases will not be collected due to patient confidentiality.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what means human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure will be introduced into the NHS Cervical Screening Programme; and when it will be available to all eligible women in each region; [64237]

(2) what the key steps will be to introduce human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure into the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in 2011-12; [64238]

(3) by what means human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure as part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme will be funded *(a)* in its first year and *(b)* in subsequent years; [64239]

(4) how many human papilloma virus tests for triage and test of cure he expects will be undertaken as part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [64240]

(5) what plans he has for the future of cervical cancer screening in the NHS; [64241]

(6) what cost savings he estimates will accrue to the NHS Cervical Screening Programme following implementation of human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure; [64242]

(7) who will be responsible for commissioning human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure as part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme; [64243]

(8) when he expects human papilloma virus testing for triage and test of cure as part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme to be available to all women who are eligible for it; [64244]

(9) when he expects the results of the human papilloma virus Sentinel Site Implementation Project to be published. [64245]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, sets out how the Government will introduce human papilloma virus (HPV) testing as triage for women with mild or borderline cervical screening test results and HPV as a test of cure for treated women. The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 states that commissioners should work with their local services and NHS Cancer Screening Programmes (NHS CSP) to implement HPV testing as triage for women with mild or borderline results, leading to a more patient-centred service and major cost savings.

The current intention is that, subject to meeting certain criteria, local cervical screening programmes will implement HPV triage in 2011-12 and HPV test of cure in 2012-13. Implementing both improvements in the same year would risk the quality and safety of the current programme and put an unnecessary burden on colposcopy services.

The Department is currently preparing advice to the national health service that will be issued shortly, alongside implementation guidance from NHS CSP. In autumn 2011, NHS Supply Chain will publish a framework agreement on the purchasing of the five HPV testing kits that are currently available. While services will not be able to implement HPV testing as triage until the framework agreement is published, they will be able to put all necessary plans in place so that, as soon as the agreement becomes available, they will be able to make decisions and place orders without delay.

It is not possible to state the exact number of tests that will take place in 2011-12 and 2012-13. As a guide, around 200,000 women a year have mild or borderline screening test results. There are currently around 500,000 women on annual 10-year follow-up following previous treatment, but this is expected to reduce to around 100,000 a year once these women have been subject to a test of cure in 2012-13.

Funding for implementation has been made available for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and will be managed by NHS CSP. We expect all women in England to be benefiting from HPV triage and test of cure from 2013-14, when we also expect savings of up to £16 million per year to be made from this new policy, as set out in the impact assessment we published alongside the new cancer strategy.

Subject to the consultation on "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", Public Health England (PHE) will have responsibility for national elements of the cancer screening programmes. PHE will fund the NHS Commissioning Board annually to commission local elements of screening programmes on behalf of PHE.

The results of the HPV sentinel site implementation project will be published in due course, once associated papers have appeared in peer-reviewed journals.

Regarding the future of cervical screening, the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) is advising on the introduction of HPV Testing as Primary Screening (HPVTaPS). Working groups have been established to take forward work in three areas:

work force requirements and supporting transition;

protocols and algorithms for testing; and

demonstrating the economies and benefits to women of HPVTaPS.

The working groups are due to report to the ACCS at its meeting on 24 November 2011, where the piloting of HPVTaPS will be considered.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64426]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes: Nurses

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider measures to improve recruitment levels for diabetic specialist nurses in the NHS. [64763]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government consider that diabetes specialist nurses are an essential part of the diabetes specialist team and have a valuable part to play in supporting people with diabetes. It is local healthcare organisations, with their knowledge of the healthcare needs of their local populations, that are best placed to determine the workforce required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

Diabetes: Walsall

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the role of community pharmacies in preventing and treating diabetes within the South Asian community in Walsall South constituency. [65502]

Paul Burstow: Community pharmacies have an important role in the prevention and management of diabetes.

The national NHS Health Check programme is a public health programme aimed at preventing diabetes, heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. It has been designed so that the risk assessment and management components of the check are suitable to be undertaken in a variety of settings, including pharmacies, community centres and other sites as well as general practitioner practices to make the programme as accessible as possible to people.

The NHS Health Check programme is for people in England aged between 40 and 74. It assesses people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and supports people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored lifestyle advice and support, and appropriate follow-up. In doing so, it will help ensure greater focus on public health and the prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney disease. This programme has the potential to prevent over 4,000 people a year from developing type 2 diabetes and detect at least 20,000 case of diabetes and kidney disease earlier.

Attendance at pharmacies also presents other opportunities for discussion about the efficacy and side effects of medicines and the technology needs of people with diabetes.

Drugs: Safety

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to establish a common NHS policy for the management of unlicensed medicines; [64323]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of primary care trusts which have established policies for the management of unlicensed medicines. [64324]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on primary care trust policies on the management of unlicensed medicines is not held centrally and we have no plans to establish a national policy for the management of unlicensed medicines in the national health service.

Clinicians should base their prescribing decisions on their assessment of their patients' clinical need, involving their patients in this process and taking into account the best available clinical evidence or guidance, including the General Medical Council's "Good practice in prescribing medicines".

Primary Care: Walsall South

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the distribution of *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* community pharmacies in Walsall South constituency. [65501]

Mr Simon Burns: Any assessment of primary care services is a local matter. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure the adequate provision of national health service primary medical services in their areas.

All PCTs need to publish, by February 2012, their assessment of pharmaceutical needs.

NHS Walsall's "Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment" is available on the NHS Walsall website at:

www.walsall.nhs.uk/communications/
Walsall_pharmacies_surveyed.asp

This document has also been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amounts owed to each NHS trust for treatment of non-UK nationals have been *(a)* collected and *(b)* not collected in the most recent year for which figures are available. [65275]

Anne Milton: The total audited income from overseas visitors under non-reciprocal arrangements and total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors by national health service trust for 2009-10 are shown in the following table. As well as non-UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, these data include income from and written off debt for UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here. Further, it does not include monies owed that hospitals are still in the process of attempting to recover.

£

	Non-reciprocal income received	*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients*
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Airedale NHS Trust	0	4,893
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	107,000	48,506
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	654,931	961,298
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	297,000	185,351
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0
Barts and The London NHS Trust	638,000	645,375
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	79,000	931
Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Bradford District Care NHS Trust	0	0
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	187,000	0
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	472,000	23,998
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	20,000	34,393
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	0	0

£

	Non-reciprocal income received	Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	26,000	104,747
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	239,000	141,491
East Cheshire NHS Trust	8,000	996
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	22,000	4,216
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	37,000	3,202
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	122,000	78,813
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	11,000	108
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	28,000	0
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	34,000	0
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	4,706
Humber NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	3,312,000	355,870
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	66,000	816
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	137,000	20,088
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,355,000	0
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust	6,000	0
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	0	0
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust	0	0
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	340,000	10
Mersey Care NHS Trust	0	0
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	11,000	0
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	28,000	0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	499,000	645,732
NHS Direct NHS Trust	0	0
North Bristol NHS Trust	282,000	0
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	15,000	1,223
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	288,000	239,148
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	805,000	403,282
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	87,000	53,752
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	55,000	174,847
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	597,000	0
Oxford Learning Disability NHS Trust	0	0
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	4,000	221,847
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	351,000	181,152
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	35,000	0
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	236,000	41,090
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	92,000	0
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	44,000	0
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	0	188
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust	30,000	0
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	79,000	16,383
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	777,000	651,455
Royal Liverpool Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust	7,000	25,180
Royal Surrey County NHS Foundation Trust	59,000	0
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	63,000	1,238
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	20,000	29,156
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	52,000	87,242

£

	Non-reciprocal income received	*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients*
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	3,000	3,964
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	25,000	-163
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
South Downs Health NHS Trust	0	0
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	110,000	0
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	13,000	0
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	22,000	10,790
South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
South West London And St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0
South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0	0
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	285,000	170,105
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	0	0
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	520,000	0
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	20,000	82
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	207,000	43,019
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	1,014,000	479,336
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	238,000	0
The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	0
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust	63,000	6,897
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	4,000	0
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	31,000	1,284
University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	0	0
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	95,000	0
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	563,000	247,291
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	43,000	2,586
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	6,000	9,920
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	193,000	354,798
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	235,000	0
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust	22,000	28,258
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	6,000	0
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	0	0
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	355,000	198,656
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	69,000	0
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	160,000	17,714
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0	0
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0	0
Total	17,036,000	6,967,260

Note:
We do not collect data from national health service foundation trusts so. figures exclude these sites.
Source:
National Health Service Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reducing mixed-sex accommodation in NHS hospitals in *(a)* Kettering, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [65189]

Mr Simon Burns: Monthly reporting of progress with eliminating mixed-sex accommodation (MSA) guidance was introduced in December 2010. Before this, there were no accurate data on how many patients suffered the indignity of sharing with someone of the opposite sex. Now, hospitals providing national health service-funded care report all breaches of MSA sleeping guidance.

Progress has been excellent, with reported breaches nationally falling by 83% between December 2010 and May 2011.

Alongside the absolute number of breaches, an MSA breach rate is published to enable comparison between organisations. This is the number of breaches per 1,000 finished consultant episodes.

Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Month	*Number of breaches*	*Breach rate*
December 2010	212	30.8
January 2011	58	8.7
February 2011	9	1.4
March 2011	13	17
April 2011	0	0.0
May 2011	5	0.7

NHS providers located in Northamptonshire[1]

Month	*Number of breaches*	*Breach rate*
December 2010	[2]212	13.3
January 2011	58	3.8
February 2011	9	0.6
March 2011	13	0.7
April 2011	0	0.0
May 2011	5	0.3

England

Month	*Number of breaches*	*Breach rate*
December 2010	11,802	8.4
January 2011	8,708	6.4
February 2011	7,583	6.0
March 2011	5,466	3.6
April 2011	2,660	1.9
May 2011	2,011	1.4

[1] Data are not collected at county level. NHS providers located in Northamptonshire include Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust, Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust. All except Kettering have reported zero breaches. Northamptonshire Healthcare did not report in December 2010.

[2] Incomplete data.

Khat

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions he estimates were linked to the use of khat in each of the last five years. [64752]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. In data returns on hospital admissions due to drug use, khat is not separately identified.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the impact of khat on the health of users. [64753]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) submitted advice on khat in December 2005. In October 2010 the Home Office published a research report on "Perceptions of the social harms caused by khat use" which included comments on perceived health harms.

The Government have asked the ACMD to update its assessment of khat and to convene the review at the next available opportunity within its work programme.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its Final Appraisal Determination meeting held on 9 June 2011 in respect of the recommendation on the use of dasatanib, nilotinib and high-dose imatinib. [65095]

Mr Simon Burns: We have had no such discussions. Ministers are clear that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body and must be free to develop its technology appraisal guidance based on the best available evidence.

Life Expectancy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effect on life expectancy of levels of air pollution in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [64387]

Anne Milton: The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants has estimated[1] the effect on life expectancy from birth of removing all man-made fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), an important air pollutant, for inner London, and for England and Wales on the basis of 2008 data. Research has shown that for inner London, removing man-made $PM_{2.5}$ would lead to an increase of life expectancy of about nine months and the corresponding assessment for England and Wales would be approximately six months. The difference is due to the higher concentration of man-made $PM_{2.5}$ in inner London.

[1] The Mortality Effects of Long Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution in the United Kingdom:

www.comeap.org.uk/documents/128-the-mortality-effects-of-long-term-exposure-to-particulate-air-pollution-in-the-uk.html

Lung Cancer: Screening

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the detection of lung cancer symptoms in primary care; and if he will make a statement. [64833]

Paul Burstow: To support earlier detection of cancer the Government have committed more than £450 million over the next four years. This money will give general practitioner (GPs) improved access to a range of diagnostic tests, including chest X-ray to support the diagnosis of lung cancer, and will fund campaign activity that aims to raise public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and to encourage people to visit their GP when they have symptoms.

Building on the success of our cancer awareness activity to date, which includes 59 local projects on lung, bowel and breast cancer and regional pilots for a national bowel cancer campaign, plans are now being developed for the next round of initiatives. These may include lung cancer symptom campaigns.

NHS Commissioning Board

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish information on the number of staff to be employed by the NHS Commissioning Board. [64797]

Mr Simon Burns: Sir David Nicholson, chief designate of the NHS Commissioning Board, published "Developing the NHS Commissioning Board" on 8 July 2011. This document sets out further details about the design and operating model of the NHS Commissioning Board, including an estimate of expected staff numbers.

This document has been placed in the Library.

NHS Future Forum

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 871W, on NHS Future Forum, (1) whether *(a)* he or *(b)* Ministers in his Department played a role in selecting (i) Professor Field and (ii) members of the NHS Future Forum; and if he will make a statement; [65015]

(2) what steps he took to ensure the independence of the NHS Future Forum when appointing senior members to it. [65016]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 871W, that the guiding principle for membership was to ensure that there was a wide range of stakeholders represented from different professional groups, the national health service and local government, the third sector and patient organisations. The Secretary of State for Health and other departmental Ministers were involved in selecting and confirming the appointment of the chair and other members of the NHS Future Forum.

There were no restrictions placed on the NHS Future Forum as to whom it spoke to and met with or to the advice and recommendations it was able to make.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 872W, on NHS: conditions of employment, what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS staff that will see changes to their *(a)* pay and *(b)* terms and conditions in each of the next five years. [65017]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimate has been made of the number of staff that will see changes to their pay and terms and conditions in each of the next five years.

The Government have indicated that decisions on pay will be made by health care employers rather than decided by the Government. In future, all individual employers will have the right, as foundation trusts have now, to determine pay for their own staff. However, the Government believe that many providers will want to continue to use the existing national contracts as a basis for local terms and conditions.

Staff moving to new organisations may have their current terms and conditions protected under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations and any changes to terms and conditions must comply with employment law.

NHS: Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means levels of compensation are determined for specific medicines distributed by NHS pharmacists on a medicine-by-medicine basis; and whether this system takes into account price differences across chemically similar medicines. [64886]

Mr Simon Burns: Payment for drugs and appliances provided by community pharmacies operating under the community pharmacy contractual framework is a Secretary of State determination and is set out each month in the Drug Tariff.

The prices listed in part VIII of the Drug Tariff indicate what dispensers will be paid for dispensing prescriptions written generically. Dispensers can fulfil the prescription with whichever product they want or is available to them (brand or generic), but regardless of which product they supply, if there is a price in part VIII, they will only be paid this price. Prices in part VIII are established according to which category the price is in. Those in category M are set using sales and volume information from manufacturers, while also taking into account the findings of a pharmacy medicines margins survey, which monitors the amount of margin pharmacies earn on the medicines they dispense. Those in category C are set on the national health service list price of a specific named product.

The reimbursement price of branded products is the NHS list price established under the 2009 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, which is a voluntary agreement, agreed between the Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, or where not covered by the voluntary agreement, there is statutory scheme.

Any price differences across chemically similar medicines are determined by these two schemes.

Older People: Preventive Medicine

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to Frontier Economic's findings on Social Return on Investment that investment in the WRVS services in preventive care for older people saves money for the NHS and local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [64576]

Paul Burstow: The report was commissioned by the WRVS and has not been formally submitted to the Department.

However, the Department recognises that investment in integrated preventive services by the national health service and local authorities can lead to better outcomes for individuals including helping people to live independently for longer, and can also realise efficiencies for both the NHS and local authorities. That is why we have invested £150 million in the NHS this year to support re-ablement, which will help people recover their independence after a spell in hospital.

Patients: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on criteria used for the provision of transport for non-urgent cases to hospital; and if he will revise the current guidance issued by his Department in this respect. [64887]

Mr Simon Burns: There has been one parliamentary question raised since the start of this Administration's term in government, posed by my hon. Friend the Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale (David Morris), who asked what steps the Government are taking to prevent misuse of hospital transport by those who do not have a valid medical reason to use the service.

In 2005, the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", made a commitment to extend eligibility for non-emergency patient transport services (PTS) to procedures that were traditionally provided in hospital, but are now available in a community setting. It also committed the Department to updating existing eligibility guidance ("Ambulance and other Patient Transport Services: Operation, Use and Performance Standards") published in 1991 and finance guidance documents ("Chapter 20 of the NHS Finance Manual Finance Arrangements for Ambulance Services").

Following a 13-week consultation in 2007, Ministers in response to these commitments approved changes to PTS eligibility.

There are no current plans to revise the guidance further.

Primary Care Trusts: Expenditure

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by primary care trusts on *(a)* management costs and *(b)* in total on mental health disorders in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2009-10. [64708]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on expenditure on managers and senior managers for 1997-98 and 2009-10 and expenditure on secondary health care relating to mental illness for 1997-98 and 2009-10 is in the following table.

		£000
	2009-10	*1997-98*
Managers and senior managers	1,041,803	189,922
Mental illness	8,076,983	2,767,036

Primary care trusts did not exist in 1997-98. The figures for 1997-98 relate to spend by health authorities.

Psychotherapy

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on psychotherapy are an adequate expression of informed opinion in the field. [64526]

Paul Burstow: As an independent body, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is responsible for the way in which it develops its guidance. NICE consults widely during the development of individual pieces of guidance, and also consults periodically on the methods and processes it uses to carry out its work.

Skin Cancer

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients were first diagnosed with (1) skin cancer as an emergency aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in each year since 1997; [65422]

(2) metastatic melanoma as an emergency aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in each year since 1997. [65425]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) produced an analysis of cancer diagnosis, including for patients diagnosed as an emergency presentation, for all patients diagnosed with cancer, including melanoma, during 2007. A copy of the NCIN report "Route to diagnosis" has been placed in the Library, and it can also be found at:

www.ncin.org.uk/publications/data_briefings/routes_to_diagnosis.aspx

The findings of the NCIN report were considered in the development of "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, which sets out our intention to move forward on a new data collection which would allow routine assessment of the proportion of cancers diagnosed through emergency routes. Work is now under way to examine the feasibility of this.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received any active treatment for skin cancer aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [65424]

Anne Milton: Information concerning the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary diagnosis of skin cancer for the age groups 49 years and under, 50 to 59 years, 60 to 69 years, 70 to 79 years and over 80 years in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library. This information is not available at cancer network level.

FCEs are a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are not the same as a count of people as a person may have more than one FCE in a given year. It should also be noted that, in the data provided, the treatment received during the FCE might not be directly related to the treatment of skin cancer.

Social Care: Reform

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the statement of 4 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1232-34, on reform of social care, how he intends to assess whether a *(a)* viable insurance market and *(b)* more diverse and responsive care market might be established as a result of the Dilnot Commission proposals; [64445]

(2) if he will meet insurance companies to discuss *(a)* whether and *(b)* how a viable insurance market might be established as a result of the Dilnot Commission proposals on social care; [64446]

(3) whether he plans to meet the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss how a viable insurance market might be established as a result of the Dilnot Commission proposals on social care. [64447]

Paul Burstow: The Government will consult with stakeholders over the autumn on the Commission proposals and wider reform of social care. This will include engagement with the sector on whether a viable insurance market and a more diverse and responsible care market would be established as a result of the proposals.

We will set out our plans for engagement in more detail shortly.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review his allocation of social care funding following the increase in the number of delayed discharges from hospital in May 2011. [64251]

Paul Burstow: No one should be made to stay in hospital longer than is necessary. The national health service and social care must work together to ensure people have the support they need on leaving hospital. Some patients need particular support after a spell in hospital to settle back into their homes, recover their strength and regain their independence. The coalition Government have recently increased the level of investment made available to local health and care services to spend on front-line services and helping people return to their homes after a spell in hospital.

The spending review recognised the importance of social care in protecting the most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

As part of this funding, this year funding of £150 million has been made available for re-ablement and £648 million for social care spend that benefits the NHS which could help to reduce the level of delayed discharges. The re-ablement money will help people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital.

Local authorities are responsible for decisions on how to allocate their resources.

Speech Therapy

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the levels of support which will be required by commissioners to commission speech and language therapy services under his proposals for NHS reorganisation. [64332]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, clinical commissioning groups will in future commission the majority of NHS services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report makes clear that it will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant. In addition, clinical commissioning groups will receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will support clinical commissioning groups and hold them to account. The Board will develop commissioning guidance to support effective commissioning, and promote consistent national quality standards produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure all patients, including those with speech and language therapy needs, receive high quality services.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the introduction of *(a)* clinical commissioning groups and *(b)* health and wellbeing boards on services for those with speech, language and communication needs. [64333]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, general practitioners (GPs) will be given real responsibility to ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local healthcare needs. GPs, in partnership with other local healthcare professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the speech, language and communication health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations to design services that meet those needs.

Clinical commissioning groups will work with elected councillors, local authority commissioners and representatives of patients and the public through health and wellbeing boards to develop a comprehensive analysis of health and social care needs in each local area, and to translate these into action through the joint health and wellbeing strategy and their own commissioning plans. Health and wellbeing boards will promote joined-up commissioning that will support integrated provision of services across health and social care. This should mean that groups such as users of speech, language and communication services experience health and care services that are better joined up and better meet their needs as individuals.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that NHS commissioners have adequate skills to commission services for children with special educational needs and/or speech, language and communication needs under his proposals for NHS reorganisation. [64334]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, clinical commissioning groups will in future commission the majority of NHS services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report makes clear that they will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant In addition, clinical commissioning groups will receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will support clinical commissioning groups and hold them to account. The board will develop commissioning guidance to support effective commissioning, and promote consistent national quality standards produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure all patients, including children with special educational needs and/or speech, language and communication needs, receive high quality services.

In addition, we will ensure there is a particular emphasis within the emerging clinical commissioning group pathfinder programme of testing ways of ensuring that groups quickly develop knowledge and expertise in relation to more complex or specialist services.

St George's Healthcare NHS Trust

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of stroke patients admitted to the accident and emergency department of St George's Healthcare NHS Trust in each month since January 2009. [64188]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of finished admission episodes, in which there was an emergency admission via accident and emergency (A&E) with a primary diagnosis of stroke, by month from January 2009.

A count of the finished admission episodes[1] where the primary diagnosis[2] was stroke[3] in which there was an emergency admission via A&E[4] at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust; January 2009 to February 2011[5, 6]

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Final/provisional data	*Episode end month*	*Finished admission episodes*
Final year data	January 2009	60
	February 2009	68
	March 2009	66
	April 2009	72
	May 2009	57
	June 2009	64
	July 2009	64
	August 2009	53
	September 2009	65
	October 2009	62
	November 2009	64
	December 2009	74
	January 2010	80
	February 2010	72
	March 2010	59
Provisional data	April 2010	67
	May 2010	60
	June 2010	69
	July 2010	75
	August 2010	105
	September 2010	117
	October 2010	119
	November 2010	103
	December 2010	117
	January 2011	95
	February 2011	94

A count of the finished admission episodes[1] where the primary diagnosis[2] was stroke[3] in which there was an emergency admission via A&E[4] at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust; January 2009 to February 2011[5, 6]

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

[1] Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] Stroke
It should be noted that the ICD-10 codes for Stroke are:
I60 Subarachnoid haemorrhage
I61 Intracerebral haemorrhage
I62 Other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage
I63 Cerebral infarction
I64 Stroke not specified as haemorrhage or infarction

[4] Emergency admission via A&E
The method of admission code identifies how the patient was admitted to hospital. The following admission methods were used to classify an admission as being an emergency via A&E:
21 = Emergency: via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider). Data to be based on in-patients rather than A&E universe

[5] Provisional data
The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, ie November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

[6] Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES); Outpatients, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has undertaken an impact assessment of his proposed reform of the NHS on *(a)* patient care and *(b)* resources at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust; and if he will publish the result of any such assessment. [64189]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill, discussed the anticipated effects of the modernisation on patient care and the resources used. This was at a national level. A local breakdown of these effects is not available.

A revised impact assessment will be published when the Bill is introduced into the House of Lords. This is in line with parliamentary protocol.

Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations 2010

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on bulk tobacconists of implementation of the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations 2010; [64312]

(2) how much hand-rolling tobacco was sold by bulk tobacconists in pre-packed quantities with a weight of 250 grams or more in the latest period for which figures are available; [64313]

(3) how many businesses supplying hand-rolling tobacco meet the definition of bulk tobacconist in the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) (England) Regulations 2010; [64315]

(4) what plans he has to review regulations relating to the supply of bulk tobacco. [64317]

Anne Milton: The legislation relating to the display of tobacco products does not apply to businesses in which tobacco products are only on display for the purposes of the tobacco trade and to people engaged in, or employed by that trade.

The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations 2010 ("the regulations") provide an exemption for retail stores that only sell bulk quantities of tobacco. No assessment has been made of the impact of the legislation on these businesses, because provisions for tobacco display will not come into effect for such businesses until April 2015. Before the regulations were made, following public consultation on the initial draft, the definition of bulk tobacconists in the regulations was amended to more accurately reflect the nature of bulk tobacco sales, based on the feedback received.

The Department does not routinely collect data on sales of bulk tobacco. The Department does not hold precise figures on the number of businesses that will meet the definition of bulk tobacconist in the regulations but these types of stores will include both cash and carry type stores and duty free stores.

The Government have committed to amend legislation on tobacco displays to delay implementation and make it less burdensome for retailers, as set out in the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-67WS. The amending regulations will include statutory duty to undertake a review, five years after the regulations have come fully into force.

Tuberculosis

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed with tuberculosis in (i) Northamptonshire and (ii) England in (A) each of the last five years, (B) 2001, (C) 1996 and (D) 1991. [65204]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Children and adults diagnosed with tuberculosis, Northamptonshire and England, 2005-09

	Northamptonshire			*England*		
	Children 0-14	*Adults 15+*	*All cases*	*Children 0-14*	*Adults 15+*	*All cases*
1991	<5	38	38	449	4,805	5,436
1996	<5	39	43	369	5,151	5,654
2001	10	58	68	421	5,845	6,270
2005	9	70	79	424	7,265	7,691
2006	<5	66	68	367	7,352	7,720
2007	<5	64	66	463	7,163	7,626
2008	<5	63	66	458	7,484	7,942
2009	<5	80	83	403	7,883	8,286

Notes:

1. Northamptonshire has been defined by the following local authorities; Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough.
2. Data for 1990-98 were collected through notifications of infectious diseases (NOIDs), while data from 1999 onwards were collected from enhanced TB surveillance (ETS).
3. All cases include those with an unknown age, so numbers in adults and children may not add up to the total.
4. Where there are less than five cases, the exact value has not been given to avoid the risk of deductive disclosure of a patient's identity.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Tuberculosis: Medical Treatments

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to fund the Find and Treat Tuberculosis Project and the mobile X-ray screening unit after April 2012. [65431]

Anne Milton: The national health service in London has funded the Find and Treat service since April 2011. Therefore, decisions about future funding of Find and Treat will be made by the NHS in London, in the context of their current review of tuberculosis (TB) services in London which will lead to a TB plan for London due later this year.

The Department commissioned the Health Protection Agency to evaluate the Find and Treat service (including the mobile X-ray unit).

The final evaluation report, which is subject to academic peer review, indicates that the service is both clinically and cost effective.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation of the Find and Treat Tuberculosis Service and mobile X-ray screening unit his Department has carried out; what the conclusions were of the final evaluation; and when he will make the full report publicly available. [65432]

Anne Milton: The Department commissioned the Health Protection Agency to evaluate the Find and Treat service (including the mobile X-ray unit).

The final evaluation report, which is subject to academic peer review, indicates that the service is both clinically and cost effective. Once the report has been peer-reviewed and finalised, it will be made publicly available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abyei

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efforts his Department is making to broker a lasting solution to the dispute over Abyei. [64465]

Mr Bellingham: The Abyei Interim Agreement of 20 June ought to lead to the swift withdrawal of Sudanese armed forces and the deployment of Ethiopian peacekeepers under an UN mandate. We are fully committed to finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the Abyei issue and will remain engaged with the rest of the international community and both Sudan and South Sudan, as we move beyond the secession of South Sudan on 9 July.

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65042]

Mr Bellingham: None. Ministerial Government Departments directly fund workplace support for their own disabled staff, instead of using access to work. The HR Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides support for disabled staff. As of 4 July, 258 members of staff have disclosed a disability and those that require them have been provided with reasonable adjustments.

Afghanistan: Pakistan

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Government of Pakistan's policy to have a strategic role in the future of Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [63609]

Mr Hague: We agree with Pakistan that peace and stability in Afghanistan will not be achieved through force alone and that the key is a genuinely representative political outcome that addresses the political and economic aspirations of all Afghan citizens, and the wider region. Pakistan has a positive role to play in supporting this Afghan-led process.

The UK encourages greater co-operation between Afghanistan and Pakistan which will help improve peace and security on both sides of their borders. We warmly welcome the recent strengthening of the Afghanistan-Pakistan bilateral relationship including the recent visits of Prime Minister Gilani to Kabul and President Karzai to Pakistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions he has discussed the drawdown of NATO forces in Afghanistan with his *(a)* Russian, *(b)* Chinese and *(c)* Pakistani counterpart. [63022]

Mr Hague: The transition of security responsibilities from International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to Afghan forces and the corresponding gradual drawdown of ISAF troops during this process is an issue on which ISAF and the Afghan Government routinely keep other countries in the region updated. In addition, the UK regularly engages with Russia, China and Pakistan on Afghan-related issues. Troop drawdown was discussed with these countries most recently at a meeting of the International Contact Group in Kabul on 26-27 June.

Africa: Piracy

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the safety of UK ships off the *(a)* east and *(b)* west coast of Africa from the threat of piracy. [64224]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), is in regular contact with ministerial colleague on these matters and he attended an NSC discussion on Somalia on 11 July, where piracy was discussed.

The Prime Minister recently discussed Somali piracy with his counter-parts at the G8 summit, where partners underlined their determination to continue to respond resolutely to the threat. The G8 remains focused on the safety of shipping in both east and west Africa.

I recently chaired two cross-Whitehall ministerial working groups, with the Under-Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister for the Armed Forces, the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), to discuss the threat of Somali piracy. The working group recently visited the EU's Counter-Piracy HQ at Northwood, and met senior figures from industry.

Bahrain: Torture

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Bahrain authorities on recent reports of torture suffered by patients in hospital who may have been involved in opposition rallies. [62325]

Alistair Burt: We continue to raise the UK's strong concerns over many credible reports of human rights abuses and allegations of torture in Bahrain. We call on the Government to investigate them fully and transparently and for the Bahraini authorities to act in accordance with the law.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made clear the UK's concerns when he met the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 25 May. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), discussed our concerns when he met the Crown Prince on 31 May and again on 23 June during their telephone call. Our ambassador in Bahrain continues to regularly raise the issue of human rights in his contact with the Bahrain Government.

British Nationals Abroad: Detainees

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are in detention in each overseas country without having been charged; and for how long each has been detained. [63955]

Mr Bellingham: As of March 2011 we were aware of 2,076 British nationals in detention overseas, a figure which includes individuals detained at all stages of the legal process. We are unable to estimate how many of those have been detained without charge in individual foreign countries. Estimating this figure, and how long they have been detained in each case, would prove difficult and incur disproportionate cost. We aim to contact British nationals, depending on local circumstances, within 24 hours of being told of their arrest or detention. We will consider approaching the local authorities if a British national is not treated in line with internationally-accepted standards, including if their trial is unreasonably delayed compared to local cases.

China: Water

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a regional water sharing agreement between China and India was discussed during the visit of the Chinese Premier to the UK in June 2011. [64331]

Alistair Burt: A regional water sharing agreement between China and India was not discussed during the visit of the Chinese Premier to the UK in June 2011.

Special Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62068]

Mr Lidington: Over the last 12 months, the Department's special advisers claimed £21.49 in expenses. This was on passport pictures and a taxi fare. The Department has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64686]

Mr Bellingham: Records are only available for UK-based Foreign and Commonwealth officials. Records for overseas-based locally employed officials are not centrally held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There have been fewer than five dismissals in each of the last three years. Details are withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on private charter aircraft in each of the last 10 years. [58943]

Mr Lidington: With regard to ministerial travel for the period since May 2010, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle) on 5 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 880W. For the period from 1999 to May 2010, the previous Government published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Where private charter aircraft were used, this was shown in the list. The previous Government also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House.

The following expenditure has been incurred in 2011 in respect of charter planes used for evacuations of British nationals and eligible persons:

Egypt: £178,894;

Libya: £1,107,462;

Japan: £780,121; and

Bahrain £175,546 (total £2,251,624).

As I said in my written ministerial statement on 4 July 2011, following our review of consular evacuation procedures, the security and well-being of British nationals is always our absolute priority in a crisis.

Prior to 2011, £213,400 was paid for charter flights for the repatriation of tsunami victims on 30 and 31 December 2004, and £52,998 was paid to transport staff to assist evacuation from Lebanon on 20 July 2006. Further figures are not held centrally, and are available only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on chartered boats in each of the last 10 years. [59121]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) incurred costs of £9,600 in respect of evacuation by ship from Libya in 2011.

Complete figures for previous years are not held centrally, and are available only at disproportionate cost.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of *(a)* international aid organisations and *(b)* other non-governmental organisations to operate in Egypt. [59717]

Alistair Burt: There is a wide range of international and non-government organisations (NGOs) operating in Egypt. Some local human rights NGOs are taking part in working groups to advise on the drafting of a new law on the registration process for NGOs.

The UK has committed £1.2 million through the Arab Partnership to support the political transition in Egypt. Our embassy in Cairo is in close contact with a range of local and international non-governmental organisations, Government officials, the opposition and activists to identify the most useful interventions. They are making progress in developing programmes that address Egypt's political, economic and structural needs.

UN organisations, such as UN Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), are also active in identifying programmes to support the transition to a civilian-led democratic Government. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently agreed to donate £100,000 from its Human Rights and Democracy Fund to the OHCHR to support the setting up of a Regional Office for North Africa in Cairo and a Country Office in Tunisia.

Embassies: Working Conditions

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking in relation to the treatment of domestic staff in embassies in London. [63204]

Mr Bellingham: The FCO treats any allegation of mistreatment of domestic workers in diplomatic households very seriously. The police investigate allegations that the law has been broken by persons entitled to immunity and report the results to the FCO. When an allegation is brought to our attention by the police, we liaise as necessary with the relevant diplomatic mission and the UK Border Agency to work for an appropriate response. In the case of an allegation of mistreatment requiring further investigation by the police, the FCO will request a waiver of the diplomat's immunity from the diplomatic mission concerned on behalf of the police. Failure to provide a waiver may result in a request to the mission for withdrawal of the diplomat. In 2010 there were two cases involving allegations of mistreatment of a domestic worker in a diplomatic household.

In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 (VCDR) foreign diplomats accredited in the UK are entitled to employ domestic workers. Under article 41(1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations it is the duty of all diplomats:

> "to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State."

This applies to the terms and conditions of employment for all domestic staff. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly reminds all foreign missions based in the UK of their obligations under the law, most recently in February 2011.

EU Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has entered into with his European counterparts regarding the promotion of greater market integration in *(a)* European energy markets, *(b)* European services markets and *(c)* European digital services markets. [64919]

Mr Davey: As Minister responsible of many of the policy areas in this question I have been asked to reply.

Energy

Market integration of European energy markets is a priority for the UK in delivering our objectives of secure and affordable energy. This issue is regularly discussed by Ministers across Whitehall Departments at European as well as bilateral engagements.

European services markets

During meetings with counterparts in other States, I use every opportunity to stress the importance of completing the Single Market for services. I raised this at the Competitiveness Council on 9 March 2011. The European Commissioner responsible for this area, Michel Barnier, visited the UK at the beginning of April when he discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). I hosted a ministerial meeting on 6 July in Lancaster House (attended by ministerial and official representatives from the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, Ireland, Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic and Latvia) where we agreed to unite our efforts and jointly lobby European Commission to accelerate the pace of implementation of the Services Directive and to promote the Digital Single Market.

Foreign Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date each bilateral agreement was enacted between the UK and *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China since 1997. [56317]

Mr Hague: I have written to the right hon. Gentleman. A copy of the letter is in the Library of the House.

Gambia High Commission: Manpower

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects there to be changes to the number of staff employed in the Gambian high commission as a result of the closure of bilateral aid programmes from the UK. [64544]

Mr Bellingham: There are no changes envisaged to the number of staff employed in our high commission in the Gambia as a result of the closure of bilateral aid programmes from the UK. DFID had contracted a locally engaged officer to help oversee the winding down of DFID's Gambia bilateral programme. Their contract ended in March 2011 and DFID has no plans to renew the contract. As with all our posts, we keep staffing levels under regular review. The UK continues to invest substantially in the Gambia through a variety of programmes delivered through our high commission, totalling over £120,000. Development support to the Gambia also continues through our contributions to multilateral organisations such as the European Union. For 2008-09 the figure for attributed UK aid to the Gambia through multilateral organisations was £923,000.

Germany: World War II

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to commemorate the White Rose resistance movement; and if he will make a statement. [R] [64646]

Mr Lidington: While I applaud the valiant resistance demonstrated by the White Rose movement, I do not currently plan to take steps to commemorate it.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of information held by his Department on the White Rose resistance movement; and if he will make a statement. [64648]

Mr Lidington: Information Management Department have searched FCO records, including records already transferred to the National Archives, but have been unable to find any references to the White Rose resistance movement.

While I applaud the valiant resistance demonstrated by the White Rose movement, I do not currently plan to take steps to commemorate it.

Government Communications Headquarters: Bude

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many US personnel are based at GCHQ Bude. [57058]

Mr Lidington: Government Communications Headquarters Bude employs approximately 200 people and supports the interests of the UK and its allies. It is long-standing policy not to provide a detailed breakdown of staffing.

Italy: Higher Education

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Italian counterpart the implementation in Italian law of judgments of the European Court of Justice in respect of the position in Italy of UK and other foreign national lecturers. [64664]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government continue to bring to the attention of the Italian authorities the issue of discrimination over jobs and pay against UK and foreign national lecturers in Italian universities. I raised the issue with the Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini, on 21 June 2011. I am also writing to ask him what steps his Government will put in place to secure a resolution to this longstanding issue.

The Italian Government maintain the position that Italian legislation is compliant with the European Court of Justice (ECJ) judgments, and the issue is now a matter for individual universities. The universities remain adamant that the issue cannot be resolved without additional funding from the Government.

Italy: Sikhs

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Italian counterpart the respect given by Italian Government authorities to the Sikh turban. [64186]

Mr Lidington: I am aware of specific incidents in Italy where members of the Sikh community have been asked to remove their turbans for security checks at airports. I understand the distress this will have caused. According to reports from our embassy in Rome, the Italian authorities confirmed in June that Sikhs would no longer be required to remove their turbans at airports. The Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), wrote to all her EU counterparts in June to explain a trial being undertaken in the UK of an alternative procedure for delivering elements of EU regulations on screening passengers prior to travel. I hope this procedure will be considered by EU authorities.

Kenya: Clara Gutteridge

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether during his recent visit to Kenya he made representations to the Kenyan Government in respect of Clara Gutteridge, who was deported from Kenya on 10 May 2011. [64372]

Mr Bellingham: I visited Kenya in late May 2011. Although I did not raise Ms Gutteridge's case on that occasion, I raised it with Prime Minister Odinga during his recent visit to London in July. The UK Government have taken her case very seriously and raised it with the Kenyan authorities on a number of occasions since her deportation. In particular, we have raised concerns that her deportation was in response to legitimate work on human rights issues related to terrorism suspects transferred to Uganda, rather than on grounds relating to counter-terrorism. We have also publicly and privately raised concerns about allegations of rendition, which I know is a particular focus of the work she was involved with.

Languages

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the proportion of its officials who speak *(a)* French, *(b)* German, *(c)* Spanish, *(d)* Portuguese, *(e)* Russian, *(f)* Arabic, *(g)* Mandarin Chinese, *(h)* Hindi, *(i)* Punjabi, *(j)* Sindhi and *(k)* Japanese. [63014]

Mr Hague: Based on our 2010 central HR database records, the approximate proportions of UK-based staff with language skills registered are:

(a) French: 52%
(b) German: 29%
(c) Spanish: 18%
(d) Portuguese: 4%
(e) Russian: 6%
(f) Arabic: 4%
(g) Mandarin: 3%
(h) Hindi: 1%
(i) Punjabi: Less than 1%
(j) Sindhi: Less than 1%
(k) Japanese: 3%.

We are creating extra speaker slots in the FCO network in line with foreign policy priorities, including in the middle east, China, and Latin America. We will invest in additional full-time language training for officers appointed to these positions where necessary.

Libya

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent from the public purse on Musa Kusa *(a)* during his recent visit to the UK and *(b)* since his departure for Qatar. [63297]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) said to the House on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 752, Musa Kusa flew to the UK from Tunisia of his own volition, having notified our authorities shortly before his departure of his intention to travel here. The Government neither provided nor paid for Musa Kusa's travel and he has received no direct payment from the Government, nor subsidy for accommodation. No aspects of Musa Kusa's visit to Qatar have been paid for by the Government. We cannot comment on expenditure relating to his personal security in the UK and wider national security issues.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed UN Security Council Resolution 1973 with his *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Russian counterpart since the start of Operation Ellamy. [63015]

Mr Hague: I am in regular contact with my Chinese and Russian counterparts in various forums on a range of issues including Libya. The Prime Minister and Chinese Premier Wen set out their views on Libya to the media at the UK-China summit on 27 June. The Prime Minister also discussed Libya with President Medvedev in the margins of the G8 summit on 26 May.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made any requests to other countries for *(a)* financial and *(b)* military assistance for the operation in Libya. [63828]

Alistair Burt: There is a regular ongoing dialogue with international partners including the UN, NATO, EU and within the Libya Contact Group on funding and military assistance. It is clear that there is a broad international coalition in support of the operation in Libya and many nations are contributing.

Lithuania: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of levels of anti-Semitism in Lithuania since May 2010; what recent discussions he has had with his Lithuanian counterpart on anti-Semitism in Lithuania; and if he will make a statement. [64649]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Vilnius reports all incidents of anti-Semitism in Lithuania to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. There have been a number of anti-Semitic incidents since May 2010. We take a serious view of these incidents and continue to urge the Lithuanian authorities to tackle them in a determined way. My hon. Friend will know that the UK is committed to fighting discrimination and intolerance. Combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, is an important part of the UK Government's human rights policy.

Lithuania: World War II

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the adoption by the Parliament of Lithuania of legislation on compensation for Jewish property looted during the second world war; and if he will make a statement. [64647]

Mr Lidington: I welcome the adoption by the Lithuanian Parliament on 21 June 2011 of a law which will provide compensation for communal and religious property owned by the Jewish community of Lithuania before the second world war. This compensation will support the ongoing social and cultural life of the Jewish community in Lithuania and help ensure that their historical contribution to that country and Europe is remembered. This law, signed by the Lithuanian President, Dalia Grybauskaite, on 5 July 2011, approves the decision to pay 128 million Litas (approximately £32 million) in the next 10 years to compensate Jewish people for the property expropriated from them by totalitarian regimes.

The compensation will be paid during the period 2013-23 and transferred to a special fund administered by a governing body representing the Jewish community in Lithuania.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 June 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding Professor Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar. [64343]

Alistair Burt: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) replied to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 2 June 2011 on 6 July.

It is the long-standing policy of the UK Government to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) has written to the Indian high commissioner in London setting out the UK's strong opposition to the death penalty, urging the Government of India to commute such sentences to life imprisonment and calling for the establishment of a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. He also raised this issue with Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao when they met on 28 June, and also with the Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur during their meeting on 5 July. We have likewise raised our concerns about the end of the de facto moratorium on the death penalty through the EU.

We will continue to press for the abolition of the death penalty.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Israeli Government regarding the observance of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and the naval blockade of Gaza. [65429]

Alistair Burt: The UK recognises that Israel has legitimate security concerns that must continue to be safeguarded, and believes that efforts to maintain security while enabling movement and access for Palestinian people and goods are critical.

We remain clear that the situation in Gaza is both a tragedy and unsustainable. While there is no humanitarian crisis, there is an enduring need for humanitarian aid. We have also been clear that actions by both Israel and Hamas have contributed to this situation. Working closely with the EU and Quartet, we continue to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. During my recent visit to the region, I explained the risks to Israel from the current situation in Gaza.

Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items was a positive step. However there has been no fundamental change in the crossings regime and economic stagnation and de-development in Gaza remain the norm. We are clear that more needs to be done, particularly to enable exports, accelerate key imports for reconstruction and ensure free movement of people. Without economic growth in Gaza, there is a risk of fostering a more broadly radicalised environment. An improved economy and a resurgence of Gaza's pragmatic business fraternity are not only essential for the people of Gaza, but are also firmly in Israel's security interests.

Middle East: Natural Gas

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of gas explosions in Israel and Jordan in recent months. [65195]

Alistair Burt: On 17 June, local press reported a gas explosion killed four people and injured more than 60 in the Israeli coastal town of Netanya. The Israeli police said the blast was likely to have been caused by negligence and confirmed the attack was not an act of terrorism. One person has been arrested.

I am also aware of reports that the pipeline that carries natural gas from Egypt to Israel and Jordan has been attacked three times this year, the most recently on 4 July. After the fall of President Mubarak, an agreement was reached between the Egyptian military and Bedouin tribes that only Bedouins can guard the pipeline's control rooms. The gas deal and the pipeline have long been unpopular as it is seen as a symbol of Egypt's unpopular peace treaty with Israel.

Military Aircraft: Exports

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are taking to promote the export of (i) Hawk Mk. 128 and (ii) Eurofighter Typhoon Aircraft [64890]

Alistair Burt: The promotion of British commerce and international trade is a core UK foreign policy objective. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and UK missions overseas are promoting strongly key UK defence sector export opportunities at relevant meetings at home and overseas, in close co-ordination with the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. These defence sector commercial priorities include Hawk and Eurofighter Typhoon.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions with other governments *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had on the export of (i) Hawk Mk. 128 and (ii) Eurofighter Typhoon Aircraft [64891]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers promote actively key UK defence sector export opportunities at relevant meetings with their international counterparts, complementing action by other UK Government Ministers. Among other engagements, this has included the promotion of Eurofighter Typhoon with the Indian Government, and the Government welcome strongly the selection of Typhoon for the final phase of India's medium multi-role combat aircraft competition.

Military Aircraft

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compliance of use of armed remotely-piloted aircraft by other countries with the provisions of *(a)* the Geneva Conventions, *(b)* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and *(c)* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [63215]

Mr Lidington: The assessment of whether armed remotely-piloted aircraft are being used in compliance with international obligations is a question of fact in each case. All states must abide by their legal obligations.

Morocco: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent demonstrations in Morocco. [65437]

Alistair Burt: There have been a number of demonstrations in Morocco in recent months calling for socio-economic change and political reform. Demonstrations continue to be scheduled. We assess that significant public unrest is unlikely in the short term. The Foreign Secretary has welcomed preliminary indications of a positive outcome in the referendum on the new draft constitution for the Kingdom of Morocco. We look forward to the implementation of these reforms in Morocco and parliamentary elections later in the year.

Netherlands: Slaughterhouses

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise *(a)* at the United Nations and *(b)* with the European Commission the prohibition by the Netherlands of the practice of shechita; and if he will make a statement. [R] [64643]

Mr Lidington: The Dutch Parliament is currently considering a draft law on the prohibition of the ritual slaughter of animals. However, this is a matter for the Dutch Government and Parliament accountable to the people of the Netherlands. We have no plans to raise this subject with the UN or the EU Commission.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Dutch counterpart the compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights of the prohibition of the practice of shechita in the Netherlands; and if he will make a statement. [R] [64645]

Mr Lidington: The Dutch Parliament is currently considering a draft law on the prohibition of the ritual slaughter of animals. However, this is a matter for the Dutch Government and Parliament.

Nuclear Disarmament: Finance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's budget is for stimulating nuclear disarmament initiatives in 2011-12. [60548]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is set to spend approximately £140,000 in 2011-12 on nuclear disarmament projects relating to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. This is in addition to resource allocated to nuclear disarmament-related research by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Separate to our project spend, the majority of the FCO's resource towards making progress on nuclear disarmament comprises staff for multilateral negotiations, working groups and table-top exercises.

Piracy: International Co-operation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek international agreement on a new international legal framework to tackle piracy on the high seas and bring pirates to court. [64154]

Mr Bellingham: Maritime piracy is a crime of universal jurisdiction and does not require a new international legal framework to bring pirates to court. The Government welcome the efforts of Kenya, the Seychelles and other countries around the world in pursuing the prosecution of pirates, with more than 1,000 pirates now in custody in 20 different jurisdictions globally.

The Government do not support the proposal to establish an extraterritorial Somali court on the basis that it would take time to set up and an interim solution would still be needed, the Somali Government are against a court outside of Somalia, which would contravene the Somali constitution, and it would not be cost effective in comparison to the costs of prosecution in national courts in the region or elsewhere. The Government believe that it is prison space rather than court capacity which remains the key capacity constraint, which an extraterritorial court would not solve. We have provided £5.3 million of support to the UN office on Drugs and Crime to build prison as well as court capacity in Somalia and other countries in the region.

Police: Secondment

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many police officers are seconded to his Department and working *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [64225]

Mr Bellingham: We do not hold a central record of how many police officers are seconded to the FCO. We estimate the number is very small. 29 police officers are currently seconded to the Stabilisation Unit (a tri-departmental unit part funded by the FCO), of which two are in the UK and 27 overseas.

Saudi Arabia

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the outcomes were of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011; and if he will make a statement; [65005]

(2) what costs were incurred in each category of expenditure on the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011; [65006]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the schedule of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011; [65007]

(4) what the purpose was of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011. [65008]

Alistair Burt: I did not visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in May 2011. I made a short visit to Saudi in April 2011, when I had a series of bilateral meetings, including with my opposite number the Deputy Foreign Minister; the Head of the Human Rights Commission; and a number of other Government Ministers. I had a productive dialogue on security, commerce and human rights and established relationships with some key interlocutors.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding arms export licences to Saudi Arabia. [64826]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Ministry of Defence work closely to manage the UK's export licensing regime, which BIS leads on. As such officials are in constant touch including on Saudi Arabia. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has not discussed recently arms exports to Saudi Arabia with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable).

Sri Lanka: Broadcasting Programmes

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government following allegations made in a recent television documentary on that country. [64857]

Alistair Burt: I spoke to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 14 June. I made it clear that the Sri Lankan Government need to address the allegations contained in the material recently shown in that television documentary and arising from the UN Panel of Experts Report. The UK has consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible enquiry into allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by both sides during the military conflict in Sri Lanka. In common with our partners in the international community, we expect to see progress on this by the end of the year.

If the Sri Lankan Government do not respond the UK will work with the international community in considering all options available to press the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil their obligations.

Sudan

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the emergence of South Sudan as an independent state. [64318]

Mr Bellingham: South Sudan will become as an independent state on 9 July. There is much more work both north and south have to do in the coming days, not least on resolving the outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; a continuing UN presence; and the worrying humanitarian situation. We urge both north and south to work together up to and beyond 9 July and maintain peace and stability as new neighbours.

UN Resolutions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions a draft resolution text has been circulated at the United Nations which was vetoed by *(a)* Russia and *(b)* China in the last five years. [63612]

Mr Hague: Russia and China vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution on Burma on 12 January 2007. They also jointly vetoed a resolution on Zimbabwe on 11 July 2008. Russia alone vetoed a resolution on Georgia on 15 June 2009.

United States of America

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of changes in the relationship between the UK and the USA since the state visit of President Obama. [64967]

Alistair Burt: President Obama's state visit to the UK in May made clear the importance of the relationship ("not just special, but essential"). We are working closely together in Afghanistan, Libya and elsewhere to bring security to people around the world. One million jobs in each of our countries depend on our investment partnership. We are each other's top partners in science, research and higher education, shaping the future of our economies and bringing jobs and growth to our citizens.

A number of initiatives were announced during the visit to intensify further UK/US co-operation in a range of areas, including the establishment of a Joint Strategy Board, co-operation in higher education, science and research, on military families, development, and cyber-security. Work is now in hand to follow these up.

CABINET OFFICE

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many disabled employees of his Department are receiving support from the access to work programme; and what proportion of the work force of his Department this figure represents. [64396]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has no record of any staff receiving support from the access to work programme.

Breast Cancer: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group in the London borough of Bexley who have been diagnosed with breast cancer in the last year for which figures are available. [65562]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of people in each age group in the London Borough of Bexley who have been diagnosed with breast cancer in the last year for which figures are available [65562].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The following table provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in 2008 by age group for the London Borough of Bexley.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer,[1, 2] by age group, Bexley,[3] 2008[4]

Age group	*Cancer registrations (number)*
44 years and under	10
45 to 49	18
50 to 54	19
55 to 59	13
60 to 64	15
65 to 69	16
70 to 74	9
75 to 79	23
80 to 84	12

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer,[1, 2] by age group, Bexley,[3] 2008[4]

Age group	*Cancer registrations (number)*
85+	16

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[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Around 99% of breast cancer cases are in women.

[3] Based on boundaries as of May 2011.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in 2008.

Business

Mr Brine: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new business start-ups there have been in Winchester constituency since the introduction of the national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses. [64712]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many new business start-ups there have been in Winchester constituency since the introduction of the National Insurance contributions holiday for new businesses. [64712]

The requested information is not available. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.aov.uk. However, as the contribution holiday specified in the National Insurance Contributions Act 2011 relates only to new businesses set up from 22 June 2010 they are not covered by the latest statistics, which relate to business births in 2009. Statistics relating to births of enterprises in 2010 will be available in December 2011.

Charities Act 2006

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what candidates he is considering to undertake the independent review of the Charities Act 2006; what factors he will take into account in deciding whom to appoint to undertake the review; and when he plans to announce who will undertake the review. [64233]

Mr Hurd: Section 73 of the Charities Act 2006 requires the Minister for the Cabinet Office to appoint a person to undertake an independent review of the Charities Act 2006 before 8 November 2011. We are currently considering the terms of reference for the review, and various matters relating to the appointment. At this stage no decision has been made on who will be appointed to undertake the review. We expect to make an announcement after the summer recess.

Citizenship: Armed Forces

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether members of combined cadet forces are eligible for the National Citizen Service pilots. [65019]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service is designed to bring together young people from different backgrounds in a programme of social action and personal development. Members of combined cadet forces are eligible to take part in National Citizen Service pilots, as are young people from all backgrounds who meet the age criteria for participation.

Citizenship: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young people from *(a)* Sevenoaks and *(b)* Kent he expects to participate in the National Citizen Service pilots. [65018]

Mr Hurd: The Government are piloting National Citizen Service in a wide range of locations across England in 2011. The Government anticipate that up to 150 young people will be able to take part in National Citizen Service pilots in Kent this year. Those young people will be drawn from a range of locations across Kent and there is no target specifically for young people in Sevenoaks. We hope that if successful at the pilot stage, National Citizen Service opportunities will be open to many more young people in future years.

Citizenship: Young Offenders

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young offenders he expects to participate in the National Citizen Service pilots. [65020]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service pilot providers are required to ensure that young people from a range of different backgrounds take part in their schemes. While the Government have not set a target for National Citizen Service participants who have been through the youth justice system, many of our pilot providers are highly experienced in working with this group and we expect that many participants will be drawn from this background. An independent evaluation of the pilot programme will provide data on the composition of the pilot participant cohorts.

Civil Servants: Disciplinary Proceedings

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined in each (i) Government Department, (ii) agency and (iii) non-departmental public body in respect of a faith-related issue in each of the last five years. [63944]

Mr Maude: This information is not collected or held centrally. To obtain the information requested could not be done without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold. There is no record of any cases in the Cabinet Office.

Civil Service: Performance Standards

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the civil service appraisal systems for managing performance. [64710]

Mr Maude: Effective performance management is the cornerstone of any successful organisation. There are a wide variety of different appraisal systems used across civil service departments, agencies and NDPBs. I have made it clear that reforming these performance management arrangements is essential. We need to make sure that talented stars can rise further and poor performance is managed.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64692]

Mr Maude: There has been one case in September 2010 where a member of staff in Cabinet Office was dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from the staff appraisal system. Two individuals resigned in 2010 and 2011 before they could be dismissed for failing their probationary period and both of these cases were due to under-performance. Another member of staff was returned from their loan early due to under-performance in 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64436]

Mr Maude: I am not aware of any such requests being refused.

Economic Growth

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of economic growth excluding financial services in each of the last six quarters. [63867]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the level of economic growth excluding financial services in each of the last six quarters (63867).

The latest period for which economic growth data are available is for the first quarter of 2011. The data in column 3 of the table below gives Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices excluding financial services for each quarter from 2009 Q4 to 2011 Q1. The data has been derived from data published in the Quarterly National Accounts Statistical Bulletin published on 28 June 2011. Comparable growths for total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices and GVA at basic prices are shown for comparison in columns 1 and 2.

GDP and GVA: Percentage growth on previous quarter

	GDP at market prices	*GVA at basic prices*	*GVA less financial services*
2009			
Q4	0.5	0.6	0.7
2010			
Q1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Q2	1.1	1.1	1.3
Q3	0.6	0.6	0.7
Q4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4
2011			
Q1	0.5	0.5	0.6

Note:

The difference between GDP at market prices and GVA at basic prices is one of price basis—GDP includes taxes on products and excludes subsidies.

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* people born in the UK, *(c)* non-UK EU nationals and *(d)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what proportion of the people employed in each sector the figures in each such category represent. [63775]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK nationals, (b) people born in the UK, (c) non-UK EU nationals and (d) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what proportion of the people employed in each sector the figures in each such category represent. 63775

The information requested is shown in the following tables. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the tables.

Labour market statistics published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin previously described as working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59) have now been replaced with statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women. Consequently, the estimates provided have been produced on this basis.

People aged 16 to 64 in employment by public and private sector and by nationality and country of birth: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Public sector[1,2]				*Private sector*[1,3]			
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[3]	*Non-EU nationals*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[5]	*Non-EU nationals*
2010 Q2	6,680	6,324	171	280	18,851	17,803	984	930
2010 Q3	6,699	6,336	161	248	19,161	18,094	1,034	930
2010 Q4	6,683	6,298	164	237	19,087	18,028	1,030	937
2011 Q1[6]	*6,673	*6,285	**189	**244	*18,928	*17,833	*1,095	*931

Thousand

		Total employment[3,4]		
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[5]	*Non-EU nationals*
2010 Q2	25,701	24,287	1,169	1,222
2010 Q3	26,052	24,608	1,204	1,187
2010 Q4	25,927	24,468	1,206	1,185
2011 Q1[6]	*25,770	*24,277	*1,296	*1,184

People aged 16 to 64 in employment by public and private sector and by nationality and country of birth, as a proportion of the total employment aged 16 to 64 in each sector. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Public sector[1,2]				*Private sector*[1,3]			
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[5]	*Non-EU nationals*	*UK nationals*	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[5]	*Non-EU nationals*
2010 Q2	94	89	2	4	91	86	5	4
2010 Q3	94	89	2	3	91	86	5	4
2010 Q4	94	89	2	3	91	86	5	4
2011 Q1[6]	94	88	3	3	90	85	5	4

Percentage

		Total employment[3,4]		
	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals*[5]	*Non-EU nationals*
2010 Q2	91	86	4	4
2010 Q3	92	87	4	4
2010 Q4	92	86	4	4
2011 Q1[6]	91	86	5	4

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates:
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for official Public Sector Employment estimates.
[2] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (including police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant-funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.
[3] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.
[4] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.
[5] Comprises EU27.
[6] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key:
* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV ≥ Coefficient of Variation
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 629W, on Government Departments: procurement, what mechanisms are in place to ensure EU member states comply with obligations to treat UK companies equally when procuring goods and services. [65051]

Mr Maude: Public authorities in other EU member states are required to treat UK companies equally when they procure goods and services, in accordance with the provisions in the EU procurement directives.

The principal means of enforcement for a breach of the directives and other enforceable EU law such as the EU treaty are:

action by suppliers or contractors against contracting authorities in accordance with member states' implementation of the relevant remedies directive; and

infraction proceedings by the Commission against the member state that can result in escalation to the European Court of Justice.

Immigration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU-member state have migrated to the UK in each quarter since the fourth quarter of 2009. [64488]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have migrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in each quarter since the 4th quarter of 2009 (64488)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of migrants entering and leaving the UK. The following table shows estimates of long-term migration by non-EU citizens for each quarter from the quarter ending March 2010 to September 2010. These data are provisional and are based upon the International Passenger Survey.

These estimates are of numbers of moves each year rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear three times in this table.

These figures were provided as part of the response to the Parliamentary Question (Hansard Ref 63715) relating to the number of people who have immigrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in (b) Each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available.

Provisional long-term international migration estimates from International Passenger Survey: Immigration of non-EU citizens to the UK 2010 Q1 to 2010 Q3, United Kingdom

		Thousand
	Estimate	*SE%*[1]
2010 Q1	65	5
2010 Q2	40	6
2010 Q3	134	4

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[1] Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error of >25% is not considered to be reliable. For any given estimate there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies in the range: estimate +/- 0,0196 x estimate x standard error %.

Lone Parents: Employment

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were *(a)* in employment and *(b)* unemployed in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each year since 2008. [65376]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of lone parents who are in a) employment and b) unemployed in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each year since 2008. (65376)

Estimates of the number of lone parents who are in employment and unemployed are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. Datasets for 2008 and 2009 are available. However, due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates because the sample sizes for this survey are not sufficiently large enough for the Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency.

Pay: Equality

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what statistics the Office for National Statistics collects on regional pay differentials. [65096]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what statistics the Office for National Statistics collects on regional pay differentials. (65096)

The Office for National Statistics preferred measure of regional pay differences comes from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). The latest survey results relate to April 2010, though results for April 2011 will be published in November 2011.

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Earnings estimates by area are available at region (formerly known as Government office region), local authority and parliamentary constituency levels.

Information is produced for hourly, weekly and annual rates of pay for full and part-time employees by region, industry, occupation, age and gender. Further details on the survey are available from:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15236

Skin Cancer: Mortality Rates

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died from skin cancer aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [65423]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from skin cancer aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 80 years in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust area in each year since 1997. (65423)

Table 1 provides the number of deaths where skin cancer was the underlying cause, for people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over, in each cancer network in England, for 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Table 2 provides the number of deaths where skin cancer was the underlying cause, for people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) 80 years and over, in each primary care organisation in England, for 1997 to 2009 combined.

Table 3 provides the number of deaths where skin cancer was the underlying cause, for people of all ages, in each primary care organisation in England, for 1997 to 2009.

Figures in Tables 2 and 3 for primary care organisations have been provided separately due to small numbers of events, in line with the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Copies of Tables 1, 2 and 3 have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Suicide

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the numbers of *(a)* suicides and *(b)* attempted suicides among terminally-ill patients being treated at home in each of the last four years. [64810]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the numbers of (a) suicides and (b) attempted suicides among terminally-ill patients being treated at home in each of the last four years. (64810)

The following table provides the number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over, in England and Wales, for 2006 to 2009 (the latest year available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a terminally-ill patient or being treated at home at the time of death. When a death has been investigated by a coroner, further information may be available to ONS in the form of coroner's inquest text. However, this information may not be consistently collected and cannot be extracted without disproportionate cost.

Figures are not available for the number of attempted suicides, since these data are not routinely collected. Results from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey for 2000 and 2007 (the two most recent surveys) estimated that 0.5 per cent of persons aged between 16 and 74 in England attempted suicide in 2000, and 0.7 per cent in 2007.[1]

Suicide figures for persons aged 15 years and over in England and Wales from 1991 onwards are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13618

[1] The Health and Social Care Information Centre (2009) Adult psychiatric morbidity in England, 2007: "Results of a household survey". Available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/mental-health/mental-health-surveys/adult-psychiatric-morbidity-in-england-2007-results-of-a-household-survey

Table 1: Number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over, England and Wales, 2006 to 2009[1,2,3]

	Persons Deaths
2006	4,504
2007	4,306
2008	4,587
2009	4,675

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 (excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending). From 2007, deaths which were previously coded to Y33.9 are coded to U50.9.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Vacancies

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies available in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [65485]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of job vacancies available in (a) England, (b) the West Midlands and (c) Dudley borough in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. (65485)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, however estimates below UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey, however geographical breakdowns of this data are available. Currently Jobcentre Plus vacancies account for around half of the total number of vacancies as reported by the Vacancy Survey.

In Table 1, we have provided the number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies for each of the latest 12 months for which figures are available for England, the West Midlands and Dudley.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies, May 2010 to May 2011[1]

	England	West midlands	Dudley
May 2010	247,438	32,112	1,575
June 2010	263,935	34,879	1,520
July 2010	248,642	34,463	1,430
August 2010	246,434	32,678	1,270
October 2010	286,526	39,908	1,366
November 2010	288,108	39,483	1,248
December 2010	238,265	32,751	1,189
January 2011	202,861	26,897	917
February 2011	230,129	28,414	982
March 2011	214,061	29,334	1,149
April 2011	224,392	33,507	1,248
May 2011	201,205	27,428	1,106

[1] Data for September 2010 are not currently available.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on the development of carbon capture and storage in the UK. [64382]

Charles Hendry: Ministers meet their counterparts in the devolved Administrations regularly to discuss a range of energy and climate change issues.

In addition, my officials hold regular detailed discussions with their counterparts on specific issues relating to the development of CCS.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64688]

Gregory Barker: I am unable to give the requested information, in respect of the number of officials in the Department of Energy and Climate Change who were dismissed for underperformance as the numbers involved are less than 10 people each year and so to give further details could breach confidentiality.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65317]

Gregory Barker: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, eight regulations introduced by my Department came into force, which do not impose costs on businesses.

The Overhead Lines (Exempt Installations) (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010

The Overhead Lines (Exempt Installations) Order 2010

The Electricity (Exemption from the Requirement for a Generation Licence) (Millennium and Kilbraur) (Scotland) Order 2010

The Electricity (Exemption from the Requirement for a Generation Licence) (Keadby) (England and Wales) Order 2010

The Energy Act 2004 (Commencement No. 10) Order 2010

The Energy Act 2008 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2010

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (England & Wales) Regulations 2010

In the six months after 1 September 2010, eight regulations introduced by my Department came into force, which do not impose costs on businesses:

Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Radioactive Contaminated Land (Enabling Powers and Modification of Enactments) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Radioactive Contaminated Land (Enabling Powers and Modification of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Radioactive Contaminated Land (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the EPR Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the AP1000 Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010

The Submarine Pipelines (Designated Owners) Order

The Lynn and Inner Dowsing Offshore Wind Farms (Amendment) Order 2011

The Government's policy is to consider alternatives to regulation. Details of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Library of the House.

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1033/pdfs/uksiem_20111033_en.pdf

The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/984/pdfs/uksiem_20110984_en.pdf

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/765/pdfs/uksiem_20110765_en.pdf

The Gas (Exemptions) Order 2011

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/232/pdfs/uksiem_20110232_en.pdf

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2715/pdfs/uksiem_20102715_en.pdf

The Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Designated Technical Matters) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2850/pdfs/uksiem_20102850_en.pdf

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing etc.) Regulations 2010

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2221/pdfs/uksiem_20102221_en.pdf

No DECC regulations have been removed since 1 September 2010. However, DECC remains committed to simplifying the statute book and reducing the burden of regulation on business where possible. Internal reviews of our regulatory stock and engagement with our stakeholders have identified a number of potential repeals and simplifications to date, with the exact process for repealing these currently being explored. We will continue our efforts to identify opportunities to eliminate any unnecessary burden on businesses this year through full engagement with the Red Tape Challenge.

No regulations have so far been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address emergencies and systemic financial risks.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [R] [65351]

Gregory Barker: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, six regulations introduced by my Department came into force, which impose costs and benefits on businesses:

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/768/pdfs/uksiem_20100768_en.pdf

The Feed in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/678/pdfs/uksiem_20100678_en.pdf

The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1107/pdfs/uksiem_20101107_en.pdf

The Energy Act 2008 (Consequential Modifications) (Offshore Environmental Protection) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1513/pdfs/uksiem_20101513_en.pdf

The Electricity and Gas (Carbon Emissions Reduction) (Amendment) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1958/pdfs/uksiem_20101958_en.pdf

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1996/pdfs/uksiem_20101996_en.pdf

In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, my Department removed the Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading scheme Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2301). These were replaced by the Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1996), which contain similar provisions.

Electricity

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* fuel source, *(b)* retirement date and *(c)* location is of each electricity generation plant in the UK with a capacity of more than 500 megawatts. [64234]

Charles Hendry: A list of power stations over 500 MW owned by major power producers in the UK is provided in the table. The list is sourced from DUKES table 5.11 and the fuel type is as specified by the station owner.

Station name	*Fuel*	*Installed capacity (MW)*	*Location*	*Retirement date*
Staythorpe C	CCGT	1,724	East Midlands	—
Didcot B	CCGT	1,430	South East	—
Connahs Quay	CCGT	1,380	Wales	—
Grain	CCGT	1,320	South East	—
South Humber Bank	CCGT	1,285	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Saltend	CCGT	1,200	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Barking	CCGT	1,000	London	—
Langage	CCGT	905	South West	—
Killingholme	CCGT	900	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Spalding	CCGT	880	East Midlands	—
Severn	CCGT	848	Wales	—
Seabank 1	CCGT	812	South West	—
Rocksavage	CCGT	810	North West	—
Sutton Bridge	CCGT	800	East	—
Coryton	CCGT	800	East	—
Damhead Creek	CCGT	800	South East	—
Rye House	CCGT	715	East	—
Medway	CCGT	688	South East	—
Killingholme	CCGT	665	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Little Barford	CCGT	665	East	—
Ballylumford C	CCGT	616	Northern Ireland	—
Deeside	CCGT	500	Wales	—
Drax	Coal	3,870	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Longannet	Coal	2,304	Scotland	—
West Burton	Coal	2,012	East Midlands	—
Cottam	Coal	2,008	East Midlands	—
Ratcliffe	Coal	2,000	East Midlands	—
Fiddler's Ferry	Coal/biomass	1.980	North West	—
Ferrybridge C	Coal/biomass	1,960	Yorkshire and the Humber	2015 (units 1 and 2 only)
Eggborough	Coal	1,960	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Didcot A	Coal/gas	1,958	South East	2015
Kingsnorth	Coal/oil	1,940	South East	2015
Aberthaw B	Coal	1,586	Wales	
Cockenzie	Coal	1,152	Scotland	2015
Rugeley	Coal	1,006	West Midlands	—
Tilbury B	Coal	1,063	East	2015
Ironbridge	Coal	970	West Midlands	2015
Kilroot	Coal/oil	662	Northern Ireland	—
Immingham CHP	Gas CHP	1,240	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Peterhead	Gas/Oil	1,180	Scotland	—
Marchwood	Gas	842	South West	—
Keadby	Gas/oil	749	Yorkshire and the Humber	—
Ballylumford B	Gas/Oil/OCGT	540	Northern Ireland	—
Baglan Bay	Gas turbine	575	Wales	—
Heysham 2	Nuclear	1,230	North West	2023
Torness	Nuclear	1,205	Scotland	2023
Hartlepool	Nuclear	1,190	North East	2019

Station name	*Fuel*	*Installed capacity (MW)*	*Location*	*Retirement date*
Sizewell B	Nuclear	1,168	East	2035
Heysham I	Nuclear	1,160	North West	2019
Dungeness B	Nuclear	1,040	South East	2018
Wylfa	Nuclear	980	Wales	2012
Hunterston B	Nuclear	860	Scotland	2016
Hinkley Point B	Nuclear	860	South West	2016
Littlebrook D	Oil	1,370	South East	2015
Grain	Oil	1,300	South East	2015
Fawley	Oil	968	South East	2015
Dinorwig	Pumped storage	1,728	Wales	—

Plants that have opted out of the large combustion plant directive have a retirement date of 31 December 2015 but may close before if they use up their allotted hours prior to this. Stations with non-regulated retirements are assumed to have no specific retirement date.

The published lifetime for the nuclear power stations has been provided.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the electricity *(a)* generation capacity and *(b)* demand in the UK in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014, (iv) 2015, (v) 2016, (vi) 2017 and (vii) 2018. [64235]

Charles Hendry: According to the central scenario of DECC's latest published Energy and Emissions Projections (June 2010), the electricity generation capacity and demand are as follows:

	Electricity generation capacity (central projection) GW	*Electricity demand (central projection) TWh*
2012	95	364
2013	96	366
2014	101	368
2015	105	370
2016	104	371
2017	106	371
2018	110	372

The projections reflect a set of assumptions on fossil fuel and carbon prices and costs; they do not reflect a desired or preferred outcome for Government. The capacity figures include autogenerators and combined heat and power. The demand figures exclude electricity used by power stations.

The capacity figures shown in the table are sufficient to meet the projected demand. There is also some spare capacity to allow for intermittency of supply. The projections are produced by the DECC Energy Model. This is a model of energy supply and demand, which calculates the necessary generating capacity to meet a given level of electricity demand.

Electricity: Meters

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Smart Metering Programme. [63999]

Charles Hendry: The Department published an updated impact assessments for the Smart Meter Programme in March 2011. These estimate that over the next 20 years, the rollout of smart meters will deliver £7.3 billion net benefits to consumers, energy suppliers and networks. The benefits include enabling consumer behaviour change, revolutionising industry processes, improving customer service and facilitating smart grids. By 2020, we expect the average domestic consumer, with both electricity and gas, to save an average £23 per year on their energy bill.

The updated impact assessments were published alongside the Government's consultation on our Smart Meter Prospectus in which we set out the strategy, plans and timetable for rollout. Under these plans we expect to see completion of the rollout by 2019, at least one year ahead of previously published plans.

Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* water quality, *(b)* water resources, *(c)* flood risk, *(d)* coastal change and *(e)* public health of clustering of new energy infrastructure; [65452]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of development of new energy infrastructure on *(a)* biodiversity, *(b)* landscape, *(c)* visual amenity and *(d)* cultural heritage. [65450]

Charles Hendry: As part of the preparation of the energy National Policy Statements (NPS), an Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by Directive 2001/42/EC, was done to assess the potential strategically significant effects of new infrastructure on all the indicators highlighted in the questions, including cumulative effects such as those arising from clustering. As the Nuclear NPS (unlike the other energy NPSs) is site specific, it was possible to also carry out more detailed assessments for the proposed nuclear sites. All these appraisals have been the subject of extensive consultation and are published at:

www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk

In addition SEAs are carried out as part of the development of energy policy, e.g. for offshore energy licensing including wind and oil and gas. These can be found at:

www.offshore-sea.org.uk

Energy: Australia

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with his Australian counterpart on Government schemes for domestic insulation and energy efficiency in that country; and if he will publish any related documents. [64846]

Gregory Barker: I have looked at the evidence of the Australian experience, where inadequate standards underpinned the Government's retrofit scheme. It confirms the importance of standards.

The Green Deal to be launched next year will have strong framework for accreditation, which will set the necessary technical standards for installation and competence levels for installers, as well as customer care and warranty requirements.

Energy: Finance

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make available further funding to assist the Community Energy Saving Programme scheme to develop and meet its targets to replace matched funding from local authorities. [65509]

Gregory Barker: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) is an obligation on the energy companies to meet a carbon reduction target and involves no central government funding. In delivering schemes CESP providers may seek a financial contribution from local partners, including local authorities, but this a matter for commercial negotiation between the relevant parties.

Energy: Fuels

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the primary energy consumption by fuel is in million tonnes oil equivalent in respect of *(a)* oil, *(b)* natural gas, *(c)* coal, *(d)* nuclear energy and *(e)* hydro and renewables for (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [64899]

Charles Hendry: Primary energy consumption data are only available for the UK. The following table shows provisional 2010 data.

Inland energy consumption: primary fuel input basis

Million tonnes of oil equivalent

					Primary electricity		
	Total	*Coal*[1]	*Petroleum*[2]	*Natural gas*[3]	*Nuclear*	*Wind and natural flow hydro*[4]	*Net imports*
2010	217.6	36.8	70.5	95.1	13.7	1.19	0.23

[1] Includes solid renewable sources (wood, straw and waste), a small amount of renewable primary heat sources (solar, geothermal, etc.), liquid biofuels and net foreign trade and stock changes in other solid fuels.

[2] Inland deliveries for energy use, plus refinery fuel and losses, minus the differences between deliveries and actual consumption at power stations.

[3] Includes gas used during production, colliery methane, landfill gas and sewage gas. Excludes gas flared or re-injected and non-energy use of gas.

[4] Includes generation by solar PV. Excludes generation from pumped storage stations.

Source:
Energy Trends table 1.2:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/total/total.aspx

Finalised figures for 2010 will be published on 28 July 2011.

Data on final consumption at local authority level within England, Wales and Scotland have been published from 2003 onwards, with the latest complete data relating to 2008. Data on final consumption of gas, electricity and road transport fuels are currently available for 2009, with the remaining fuels due to be published later this year.

As different data sources are used for the sub-national analysis, with some data being modelled and other data being collected over slightly different time periods, the totals do not completely agree with data published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics.

Data on electricity consumption for council areas within Northern Ireland were published for the first time last year, and relate to 2008 for domestic consumption and 2009 for non-domestic consumption. Data on gas consumption within Northern Ireland are not available. As a result of the incomplete coverage, Northern Ireland data have been excluded from the following table.

The 2008 data show the following breakdowns by country and fuel type.

Final energy consumption, in thousand tonnes of oil equivalent, by fuel and country, 2008

Fuel	*Scotland*	*England*	*Wales*	*Great Britain total*
Coal	217.4	1,357.0	160.2	1,734.6
Manufactured fuels	104.6	1,644.3	346.2	2,095.1
Petroleum Products (excluding aviation use)	5,613.2	44,369.5	3,804.4	53,787.1
Natural gas	4,937.6	42,933.0	2,552.4	50,423.1
Electricity	2,434.2	22,017.5	1,398.7	25,850.5
Renewables and wastes	135.0	605.6	116.1	856.7
Total	13,442.1	112,927.0	8,377.9	134,747.1

Source:
Total final energy consumption at sub-national level, DECC, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/regional/total_final/total_ final.aspx

Environment Protection

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he intends to publish the Green Economy Roadmap. [64893]

Gregory Barker: The Government intend to publish the Green Economy Roadmap later this month.

Aircraft Emissions: Gatwick

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount of carbon dioxide emitted by aircraft using Gatwick airport *(a)* in tonnes per year and *(b)* in kilograms per passenger. [64016]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

Between 2000 and 2009 the average annual CO_2 emissions from aircraft departing Gatwick airport were 4,927 thousand tonnes. CO_2 emissions per passenger departing Gatwick during this period were 306 kg.

CO_2 emissions figures do not include the cruise emissions from arriving flights. Emissions figures by airports are calculated on this basis to avoid double counting between different UK airports and different nation states.

Feed-in Tariffs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cumulative cost of feed-in tariffs to energy consumers up to 2020 under *(a)* unchanged tariff levels and *(b)* the proposed fast track tariffs for large solar photovoltaic and farm-scale anaerobic digestion. [64964]

Gregory Barker: If the generation tariffs for large scale solar photovoltaics remained unchanged, the cumulative cost to consumers of the FITs scheme would be up to £6.8 billion (discounted, 2011 prices) between 2011 and 2020, more than double the original projected costs for the scheme.

If the changes are made as proposed in response to the fast-track review, and as currently before both Houses for consideration, we estimate that the cumulative cost to consumers will be around £3.3 billion (discounted, 2011 prices) to 2020.

Fuel Poverty: Islwyn

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in Islwyn constituency which were living in fuel poverty in 2009-10. [65703]

Gregory Barker: Data on households in fuel poverty in Wales are derived from the Living in Wales property survey, 2008 and are supplied by the Welsh Government. The survey was designed to allow analysis at an all Wales level only, so the Welsh Government are unable to supply data at a parliamentary constituency level.

In 2008, the latest year for which this data is currently available, 332,000 households in Wales were estimated to be fuel poor. This is equivalent to 26% of all households.

Green Deal Scheme: Financial Institutions

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had with representatives of banking and other financial institutions to discuss the Green Deal; [64845]

(2) what meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* Lloyds TSB, *(b)* HSBC, *(c)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(d)* the Co-operative Bank and *(e)* Northern Rock to discuss the Green Deal. [64850]

Gregory Barker: Ministers and officials have had and continue to have, significant engagement with the finance community about the Green Deal. This has included meetings with individual institutions, and the use of a finance stakeholder forum. DECC officials have also participated in finance forums and workshops hosted by members of the finance community and others, such as the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy.

Heat

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of use of the National Heat Map for England by local authorities. [64363]

Gregory Barker: The National Heat Map is being developed and is expected to be completed later this year. The map will be available online and is being designed to help local authorities, communities and developers identify what heat demand exists and inform decisions on where best to locate heat networks or heat technologies.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss the potential for exploiting shale gas with power-generating companies; and if he will make a statement. [64131]

Charles Hendry: Although it is a commercial decision for each company to decide whether or not to invest in any particular technology, it is clear from meetings which I have had with a range of energy companies, that the power generation industry is interested in the potential of shale gas. I have no specific plans to discuss this issue with power generation companies, but Government will continue to encourage the energy industry to maximise indigenous oil and gas production and infrastructure opportunities.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* e-mails and *(b)* other communications were sent from officials or special advisers working in his Department to representatives of nuclear power companies or the nuclear power industry between 10 and 15 March 2011; how many officials or special advisers working in his Department were directly or indirectly involved in providing research or briefing support on nuclear power generation to Ministers or other Government representatives between 10 and 15 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [64299]

Charles Hendry: Government officials engage on a regular basis with a number of internal and external stakeholders, including representatives from the nuclear industry and non-government organisations.

Between 10 and 15 March DECC officials prepared regular briefings for Government Ministers in relation to the evolving nuclear Fukushima crisis and in support of the Cabinet Office Civil Contingency Committee meetings which was co-ordinated by a DECC Japan Crisis Team consisting of five officials. Officials also continued to provide regular briefing support on other nuclear issues during this time.

More specific information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had meetings with representatives of nuclear power companies or the nuclear power industry between 10 and 15 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [64300]

Charles Hendry: During the period 10 to 15 March 2011, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my noble Friend Lord Marland and officials had a regular meeting with Sellafield Ltd and officials had a meeting with Babcock International Group plc.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether officials or special advisers in his Department provided briefings on nuclear power generation to the Government chief scientific adviser between 10 and 15 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [64301]

Charles Hendry: During the period 10 to 15 March 2011 no briefings were provided by Energy and Climate Change officials or special advisers on nuclear power generation to the Government chief scientific adviser.

Nuclear Power Stations: Air Traffic Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent evaluation he has made of the adequacy of the scope of the air exclusion zone (AEZs) around UK nuclear installations; what information his Department holds on the scope of AEZs around nuclear installations in other EU-member states; and if he will make a statement. [64470]

Charles Hendry: Ensuring the security of nuclear sites and nuclear material is a matter for individual EU member states. Security arrangements for the protection of UK nuclear sites are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust, effective, comply with international standards and best practice.

The Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2007 which restrict flying in the vicinity of certain nuclear installations in the UK, as specified in Schedule 2 to the Regulations, were introduced following the September 2001 terrorist attacks in the US. These regulations were last amended in 2009. However, as a number of UK civil nuclear installations are in the process of decommissioning, consideration will need to be given to reviewing this. The Department will need to work with Department for Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority and Ministry of Defence on the timing of future amendments to the regulations.

The Department has no information on air exclusion zones around nuclear installations in other EU member states.

Nuclear Power Stations: Radioactivity

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what modelling has been undertaken *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* consultants for his Department on the dispersal plume of radioactive material from a nuclear plant impacted by an aircraft collision; and if he will make a statement. [64471]

Charles Hendry: DECC uses analyses from a number of organisations responsible for radiation monitoring which have carried out modelling of radiation dispersal from nuclear plants in order to predict the consequences of a range of potential, but highly unlikely, scenarios. For instance, a radiation dispersal modelling service is carried out by the Met Office using the Radiation Incident Monitoring Network (RIMNET). Further information on dispersal modelling is available on the Met Office's website:

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/modelling-systems/dispersion-model

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the request was made to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to look at opportunities to accelerate the process of developing a geological disposal facility for nuclear waste; and by what date he has asked the NDA to respond. [64477]

Charles Hendry: Implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste is crucial, both for legacy waste and for new nuclear build. I want to ensure that we move forward as quickly as possible, consistent with the need to retain public confidence and gain the necessary regulatory approvals.

I have therefore tasked the NDA with an ongoing challenge to accelerate first waste emplacement in a geological disposal facility, and they will report progress to future Geological Disposal Implementation Board meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the DECC website.

Oil

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to create a central stockholding agency for oil reserves; and if he will make a statement. [64927]

Charles Hendry: The UK holds oil stocks for use in oil supply disruptions to comply with international obligations to the EU and the International Energy Agency with the same stocks able to be used to meet both obligations. We meet these obligations by placing compulsory stocking obligations (CSO) on industry under powers in the Energy Act 1976.

This system has underpinned compliance with our international obligations, and enabled the UK to make oil stocks available to the market during the first Gulf War in 1990 and following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Nevertheless, we keep its effectiveness and efficiency under review, and are working with industry to consider future options including the viability of a central stockholding agency.

Oil: Arctic

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had any discussions with his EU counterparts on regulations governing the drilling of oil in the Arctic. [64928]

Charles Hendry: There have been no such discussions at EU level.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had any discussions with his counterparts from *(a)* Norway, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* Canada, *(d)* the USA and *(e)* other nations on regulations governing the drilling of oil in the Arctic. [64929]

Charles Hendry: No.

Oil: Prices

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the effects on consumers of high oil prices. [65702]

Charles Hendry: I have received a number of representations on the effect on consumers of high oil prices.

The Government are aware of the significant impacts high oil prices are having on consumers, which is why the Chancellor announced a £1.9 billion package in the Budget to ease the burden on motorists.

The Government are also working domestically and with international partners to enhance oil price stability, restrain oil demand, and reduce barriers to timely and adequate investment in the oil sector. For example, through the IEF and G20 we are working to improve transparency in the oil markets, and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

The Government also have a wide range of measures to make the UK less dependent on oil. Policies such as the Renewable Energy Strategy and Low Carbon Transport Strategy will not only reduce the UK's carbon emissions, but also help ease our demand for oil.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 128W, on renewable energy: feed-in tariffs, whether he consulted Ministers in the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* Welsh Government prior to announcing the fast-track solar photovoltaic review; and whether Ministers in the devolved Administrations have made any representations in respect of the potential effects of his proposals. [64337]

Gregory Barker: As I set out in my answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 128W, Ministers in the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments, and their officials, were involved in discussions on the fast track review of feed-in tariffs (FITs). At the time they emphasised their commitment to working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FITs through the scheme review. They also highlighted a particular interest in the role of FITs in supporting community renewables.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his decision to undertake a fast-track review of the feed-in tariff scheme was taken under the Control Framework for DECC levy-funded spending before the announcement of the framework. [64383]

Gregory Barker: The 2010 spending review made clear for the first time that there are spending parameters within which the FITs scheme must operate, and stipulated the need to make 10% (£40 million) savings to the scheme in 2014-15 compared with original projections. More recently, in the interest of transparency, further details on how the costs of the FITs scheme are managed via the control framework for DECC levy-funded spending have been published on the HMT website:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
control_framework_decc250311.pdf

Renewable Energy: Fisheries

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to support the development of marine renewables. [65453]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to the development of marine renewables sector in the UK. This is reflected in the recent announcement that the Department is investing up to £20 million in wave and tidal power to help develop marine energy technologies from the prototype stage to demonstration of arrays of devices.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of industry on the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive Premium Payment. [63278]

Gregory Barker: I have regularly met representatives from businesses who have an interest in the introduction of the Renewable Heat Premium Payment.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with industry representatives on the technologies eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive Premium Payment. [63329]

Gregory Barker: I have recently met representatives from a number of businesses with whom I have discussed a range of issues, including the introduction of the Renewables Heat Premium Payment.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar photovoltaic installations with a generating capacity between four kilowatts and 50 kilowatts were in receipt of feed-in tariffs in the latest period for which figures are available. [64336]

Gregory Barker: At the end of March 2011 there were 1,173 solar photovoltaic installations between 4 kW and 50 kW inclusive confirmed on the feed-in tariff scheme since the start of the scheme. This includes installations migrated from the renewable obligation.

Data for the end of June 2011 will be available at the end of July.

Statoil

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* correspondence and *(c)* other contact (i) he, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) his officials have had with Statoil in the last six months. [64847]

Charles Hendry: Ministers in this Department have had no formal meetings with Statoil, or received any correspondence from them, although informal discussions take place in the margins of other events. In relation to such meetings or correspondence with officials, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DECC co-sponsored a supply chain event with Statoil in Aberdeen on 6 April to highlight the substantial opportunities the Bressay and Mariner projects would offer. The evening event focused on drilling, downhole and well services and attracted around 100 people primarily from the Aberdeen supply community. A number of DECC officials were present at this event.

Tidal Power: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy for commercial development of the sum announced to assist the development of wave and tidal technologies; and what discussions he had with *(a)* industry representatives and *(b)* trade associations on the matter. [65709]

Gregory Barker: Decisions on the allocation of the £20 million recently announced to support demonstration of marine energy technologies were taken in the context of the Department's entire energy innovation budget. We anticipate that the funding allocated to marine energy should, subject to value for money review, be able to support the pre-commercial array demonstration of two technologies. This funding will sit alongside additional innovation support from other funding bodies and the prospect of further demonstration of arrays of marine energy devices being supported through the EU New Entrants' Reserve 300 programme.

The Department has undertaken detailed discussions of the funding needs of the marine energy sector through the UK Marine Energy Programme which includes active participation from other public sector bodies, technology developers, large industrial organisations, utilities and trade associations.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has allocated any of the £20 million announced for assistance for development of wave and tidal technologies. [65710]

Gregory Barker: The £20 million announced recently has been earmarked, subject to value for money consideration, for the support of pre-commercial array demonstration of marine energy technologies. Details on the process by which this funding will be allocated to recipients will be published by the Department in early 2012.

Urenco

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with representatives or agents of Urenco plc since the sale of the UK's stake was announced. [64843]

Charles Hendry: The Government are considering their options with regard to the UK shareholding in Urenco. No final decisions have yet been taken and no announcement has been made.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Health Services

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to support the Government of Afghanistan to *(a)* fill their national health worker gap and *(b)* ensure that health workers are supported to work in the parts of that country in greatest need. [65010]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since 2002 the UK has provided aid to support the health sector in Afghanistan through the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). In 2009-10 this funded the salaries of 320,000 public servants including health workers. In the absence of an IMF programme DFID is delaying further payments to the ARTF. We intend to resume payments as soon as a new IMF programme is agreed.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to support the Government of Afghanistan in delivering *(a)* health care and *(b)* other basic services. [65011]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since 2002 the UK has provided aid to support health, education and other basic services in Afghanistan primarily through the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). In 2009-10 this funded the salaries of 320,000 public servants including health workers. In the absence of an IMF programme, the Department for International Development

(DFID) has delayed further payments to the ARTF. We intend to resume payments as soon as a new programme is agreed.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce *(a)* maternal, *(b)* newborn and *(c)* child mortality rates in Afghanistan. [65012]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development is currently considering how best to promote improvements in maternal health in Afghanistan. Since 2002 the UK has provided aid to support the health sector through the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). In 2009-10 this funded the salaries of 320,000 public servants including health workers. In the absence of an IMF programme, DFID has delayed further payments to the ARTF. We intend to resume payments as soon as a new programme is agreed.

Agriculture: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on measures to incentivise the uptake of climate-smart agriculture. [64370]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Agriculture is the life-line of the majority of the world's poor and food insecure population. Supporting climate-smart agriculture is an essential part of protecting the poorest and most vulnerable and of strengthening their resilience. The Department for International Development supports programmes to help developing countries integrate climate change into their national strategies—including in the agricultural sector. In the coming months the Department will also design country-specific and regional resilience programmes, based on recommendations by the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR). These will also focus on climate-smart agriculture in highly vulnerable areas.

Anguilla: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to publish the recent Anguillan environmental impact assessments. [63463]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the overseas territories. It is therefore for the Government of Anguilla to decide whether to publish environmental impact assessments.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64424]

Mr Duncan: The information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

East Africa: Droughts

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the drought conditions in East Africa; and what steps he is taking to help alleviate the situation. [65198]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The eastern horn of Africa has experienced two consecutive seasons of significantly below-average rainfall, resulting in one of the driest years since 1995. Crops have failed, large numbers of livestock have died, and local cereal prices are very high. Up to 10 million people in the sub-region need humanitarian assistance and emergency levels of acute malnutrition are widespread.

On 1 July the UK Government committed to provide 1.36 million people with emergency food assistance and 329,000 malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers supplementary food treatment. We continue to closely monitor the situation and we are calling on other countries in the international community to contribute to the humanitarian response.

Gambia: Malaria

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he expects any multilateral aid programmes supported by the Government to be used to target malaria in the Gambia. [64545]

Mr O'Brien: DFID provides funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria. This plays a critical role in supporting malaria control efforts globally. Through this channel, the UK Government are able to contribute to malaria control in countries where we have no bilateral programme. This includes the Gambia.

Gambia: Overseas Aid

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 415W, on Gambia: overseas aid, how much financial support the UK will provide to Gambia through increasing its share of multilateral programming. [64586]

Mr O'Brien: As referred to in my answer of 23 June 2011, we do not have planned allocations for UK support to The Gambia through multilateral organisations in future years. Almost 40% of the UK's aid programme is channelled through multilateral organisations. As part of the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR), the Government are determined to ensure that UK aid is directed to where it can make the greatest difference.

Horn of Africa: Droughts

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* other governments, *(b)* representatives of the European Commission and *(c)* representatives of multilateral donors on the humanitarian situation in the horn of Africa. [64462]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien) pressed Prime Minister Meles on the emergency humanitarian crisis during his recent visit to Ethiopia. He has also been urging the Kenyan Government to do more, and met with Prime Minister Odinga on Thursday 7 July. We have also called for the governments of countries in the affected region to release accurate and credible figures on the number of people affected.

I met Baroness Amos, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, on Tuesday 5 July to discuss how to galvanise a more effective international response.

We will raise this issue during the EU informal Development Ministers meeting in Poland next week. The Government are also urgently lobbying other donors to step up with more support, to stop this crisis becoming a catastrophe, and I will be speaking to other leaders in the next few days.

International Assistance: Earthquakes

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will hold discussions with his counterparts in countries with a high likelihood of earthquakes on possible improvements to international assistance following earthquakes. [65196]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is undertaking a considerable amount of such work; and we will certainly take up opportunities for such discussions.

For example, DFID is working with the Government of Nepal to draw up a framework for emergency planning and operational response in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. Through our bilateral programmes in countries at risk we are also working with other Governments on national resilience strategies.

DFID is increasing its funding to the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in order to increase support to national Governments, disaster management agencies and development strategies.

Liberia: Health Services

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* midwives and *(d)* other health workers in Liberia his Department plans to support to reach the objectives for (i) maternal and (ii) infant mortality rates set out in its operational plan for that country; [65009]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of health workers required in Liberia to meet the objective in his Department's operational plan for that country of reducing *(a)* maternal and *(b)* infant mortality rates by 2013; [65013]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that health workers are deployed to the parts of Liberia in greatest need. [65256]

Mr O'Brien: The UK, together with Irish Aid, UNICEF and UNHCR, has been supporting the delivery of Liberia's national health plan through a health pool fund under the leadership of the Minister of Health. This has enabled the Ministry to better manage the resources available to it including being able to provide additional services by contracting International NGOs. Their focus is to provide essential health care in the more remote and rural areas of the country where the need is greatest. UK support has included training and recruiting health workers to enable a basic package of essential health services to be delivered across the country.

The current national health plan comes to an end this year and so the Ministry of Health with its partners is currently carrying out an in-depth analysis of the progress made so far including the staffing they currently have, what staffing they should have as a minimum in light of the size of population, and where the need is greatest. This will result in a clear strategy by the end of this year which maps out the numbers and mix of skills they need in the medium to long term, how they intend putting these in place and what resources are available to enable them to implement the strategy. The UK has committed to train at least 2,500 health workers to 2014 and will work closely with the Ministry of Health and non-governmental partners to ensure UK resources are targeted at the priority skills needed.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the health interventions in Liberia are to which his Department has committed £12 million to 2013-14. [65255]

Mr O'Brien: The UK has been supporting the delivery of Liberia's national health plan since 2008 which has concentrated on rebuilding the health sector in order to reduce the very high levels of maternal and child mortality, among the worst in the world. The focus has been to ensure a basic package of essential health services is delivered across the country targeting pregnant women and young children.

The current national health plan comes to an end this year and so the Ministry with its partners is currently carrying out an in-depth analysis of the progress made. This is to inform the development of a new 10-year national health plan which builds on the achievements so far with a view to expanding the provision of services and improving the quality of care. The UK is working closely with the Ministry of Health and partners in the development of the new health plan to ensure UK resources contribute to reducing child and infant mortality by 10% and maternal mortality by 15%.

Sudan: Internally Displaced People

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support people who have been displaced due to conflict in Sudan. [64464]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are deeply concerned about the situation of civilians displaced by the recent fighting in Abyei and Southern Kordofan. Emergency humanitarian co-ordination meetings have taken place on a regular basis in Khartoum and Juba. At present, lack of access to the conflict affected areas and populations hinders accurate humanitarian needs assessment by humanitarian personnel. Though the uncertainty about SAF intentions has forced a further withdrawal, NGOs and UN are ready to respond once security and access allows. We are working with the United Nations to ensure that if security and access is granted, assistance will reach these displaced civilians. The UN has reserves of both shelter and food for such situations. As well as its ongoing support to the Common Humanitarian Fund, the UK has made an additional £10 million available for contingency planning to respond to any emergencies that are linked to southern secession.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for the reintegration of returnees in Southern Sudan. [64466]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Around 300,000 people have left North Sudan for the South in the last seven months. Around three-quarters have settled in rural rather than urban areas. There have been regular meetings in Khartoum and Juba with the Government of South Sudan Ministers (GoSS) to discuss the immediate relocation and first arrival needs of the returnees. The Department for International Development's (DFID) South Sudan office has now received some details of the newly developed state reintegration plans. These provide a platform for the discussion of longer-term support for sustainable livelihoods for the returnees and the recipient communities. We are following up with GoSS and development partners how UK assistance can help to take things forward.

West Africa: Malaria

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for the treatment and prevention of malaria in West African countries. [64546]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government have pledged to contribute to at least halving malaria deaths in at least 10 high burden countries by 2014-15.

Many of the malaria high burden countries are in West Africa: Nigeria alone represents a quarter of the malaria burden in Africa. In Nigeria DFID is supporting a universal net campaign. Our investments have already helped increase household insecticide treated net ownership from 10% to 70% in targeted states of Nigeria. DFID is currently supporting the procurement and distribution of 2.35 million long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLINs) to two regions in Ghana as part of the national campaign to achieve universal coverage. One million nets from DFID helped Sierra Leone achieve its target of universal LLIN coverage.

DFID also provides funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria and works with the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust to fund high quality malaria research globally, including work conducted in West Africa.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate how many apprenticeship places would be created in the *(a)* social care, *(b)* energy and utilities, *(c)* human resources, *(d)* travel, *(e)* marketing and media, *(f)* professional services and *(g)* engineering goods sector if one apprenticeship was created for every £1 million worth of (i) central Government, (ii) local government and (iii) other public sector contract. [64161]

Mr Willetts: The number of apprenticeships supported through public sector contracts will vary widely depending on the size and nature of contract. It is not possible to provide a robust estimate of potential apprenticeships places as there is no centrally-held data set on projected public sector spends on procurement, which would be necessary to provide estimates in the format requested. In addition, it would not be possible to estimate the proportion of apprenticeship places that would be genuinely additional, over and above apprentices already employed by public sector suppliers.

Decisions on whether to build skills training or apprenticeships considerations into procurements, and the scale of requirements, must be taken on a case-by-case basis by public sector bodies, taking into account value for money and the appropriateness and relevance of requirements.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate how many apprenticeship places would be created in the *(a)* construction and *(b)* information and communication technology sector if one apprenticeship was created for £1 million worth of (i) central Government, (ii) local government and (iii) other public sector contract. [64171]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* The number of apprenticeships supported through public sector contracts will vary widely depending on the size and nature of contract. It is not possible to provide a robust estimate of potential apprenticeships places as there is no centrally-held data set on projected public sector spend on procurement, which would be necessary to provide estimates in the format requested. In addition, it would not be possible to estimate the proportion of apprenticeship places that would be genuinely additional, over and above apprentices already employed by public sector suppliers.

Decisions on whether to build skills training or apprenticeships considerations into procurements, and the scale of requirements, must be taken on a case-by-case basis by public sector bodies, taking into account value for money and the appropriateness and relevance of requirements.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate how many apprenticeship places would be created if the Office of Government Commerce's guidance entitled Promoting skills through public procurement, published in April 2009, was made a mandatory part of the *(a)* central and *(b)* local government procurement process. [64172]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* Decisions on whether to include skills and apprenticeships requirements in central and local government procurements must be taken on a case-by-case basis by public sector bodies, as outlined in the Office of Government Commerce (now part of the Cabinet Office) guidance. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the number of apprenticeship places created by making Office of Government Commerce (now part of the Cabinet Office) guidance mandatory.

Guidance issued under the previous Government is currently being reviewed as part of a wider review of procurement advice and guidance by the Cabinet Office.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department issues to learning providers on the period of time within which an apprenticeship of 300 guided learning hours should be completed. [64564]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE), published on 20 January 2011, states that an apprentice on an intermediate level apprenticeship must receive a minimum of 280 guided learning hours (GLH) of which at least 100 GLH or 30% (whichever is the greater) must be delivered off-the-job and clearly evidenced.

The apprentice must receive the minimum 280 hours within 12 months of starting a framework, and a further 280 GLH in each subsequent 12-month period.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of adult apprenticeship starts in 2010-11 that were learners who had previously enrolled on the train to gain scheme. [64566]

Mr Hayes: We do not have information available on the number of adult apprentices starting in the 2010/11 academic year that were previously enrolled on the Train to Gain scheme in 2009/10 academic year.

Since May 2010, the Skills Funding Agency encouraged colleges and providers to switch[1] activity from Train to Gain to support more employers to invest in apprenticeships and support the Government's commitment to an additional 50,000 adult apprenticeships.

Provisional data shows that this Government has delivered 326,700 apprenticeship starts in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year—this is 114,000 more than the previous year and more than double our ambition.

[1] In June 2011 (Statistical First Release) there were 327,000 Apprenticeship starts and 354,000 Train to Gain starts (between August and April) compared to 212,000 Apprenticeships starts and 427,000 Train to Gain starts for the same period in 2010.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people aged between 19 and 24 who were not able to find an apprenticeship placement in 2010-11. [64567]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* We do not hold information on the numbers of 19 to 24-year-olds who have not been able to find apprenticeship placements in 2010-11. In 2009/10, more 19 to 24-year-olds (113,800) started an apprenticeship[1] when compared to previous years.

Apprenticeship opportunities are determined by employer demand for apprentices. The National Apprenticeship Service, working with the Skills Funding Agency and local authorities, regularly review the take up of apprenticeships by both employers and individuals (across all age groups) to ensure that employer demand is being met.

[1] Statistical First Release website:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of adult apprenticeship starts in 2010-11 undertaken by people who are already in employment. [65300]

Mr Hayes: For the first three quarters of 2010-11 (academic year), 215,300 adult apprenticeships were recorded on the individualised learner record (ILR)[1] as having an 'employed' status on the day before they started their learning aim[2].

[1] The ILR does not provide detailed information to identify the length of time an adult apprentice was in 'employed' status and whether they have moved to a new employer to start their apprenticeship programme. It is also customary for employers to delay starting employees onto an apprenticeship programme for a variety of reasons including probationary periods.

[2] Work is in progress to review 'employment' status data capturing for the 2012/13 academic year.

Apprentices: Bexleyheath and Crayford

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* London (i) since May 2010 and (ii) in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [63626]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency and London Government office region in academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency and London Government office region between May 2010 and July 2010 of the 2009/10 academic year based on final year data and between August 2010 and April 2011 of the 2010/11 academic year based on provisional data. April 2011 is the latest date for which we have data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and London Government office region, 2007/08 to 2009/10

	2007/08 (final)	*2008/09 (final)*	*2009/10 (final)*
Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	340	310	380
London	14,520	17,180	20,350

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and London Government office region, 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011

	2009/10	*2010/11*	*Total*
	May 2010 to July 2010 (final)	*August 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*	*May 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*
Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	90	460	550

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and London Government office region, 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011

	2009/10	*2010/11*	*Total*
	May 2010 to July 2010 (final)	*August 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*	*May 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*
London	4,290	28,120	32,410

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Provisional data on apprenticeship starts in 2010/11 will be updated in the October 2011 SFR, when more complete data for the academic year are available.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23rd June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Finance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total spend was on apprenticeship training agencies in each year since 2005. [64505]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* Between 2008-09[1] and 2010-11 financial years[2], the total amount of spend on Government funded Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) pilots[3] has been £7,931,700—yearly spend is as follows:

Apprenticeship Training Agency spend[4]

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	400,000
2009-10	3,563,000
2010-11	3,968,700

[1] Government funded Apprenticeship Training Agency pilots first began in the financial year 2008-09 through a local initiative developed by the City of Westminster College which was funded by the Learning and Skills Council.
[2] Government funding for Apprenticeship Training Agency pilots ceased on 31 March 2011.
[3] A small number of pilots deliver through a hybrid Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) and Group Training Associations (GTA) model which initially supports employers through the GTA process ie: co-ordinating the selection, recruitment and training elements on behalf of employers to recruit a suitable apprentice. The ATA is available to support initial training if employing an apprentice through host employers is not possible or to support the apprentice if employment through GTA ceases for whatever reason.
[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. The spend relates to development funding (or start up) but not training costs for apprenticeships. ATA do not deliver training—this is done through a training provider.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Government's announcement of 24 May 2010 of £150 million of funding for adult apprenticeship places, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the 173,800 additional adult apprenticeship places that have been taken up in 2010-11 to date. [64565]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* We do not recognise the figure of 173,800 additional adult apprenticeship places that have been taken up in 2010/11 to date.

In May 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced an ambition to fund 50,000 new adult (19 years or older) apprenticeship starts in the 2010-11 financial year. The latest provisional data show that against a baseline of 153,200 starts, we have delivered 257,000 starts. This means that this Government have delivered 103,800 additional apprenticeship starts from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The National Apprenticeship Service estimate the cost to the public purse of the 103,800 additional adult apprenticeship places that have been taken up in 2010-11 financial year April 2010 to March 2011 is £220 million.

Apprentices: Per Capita Costs

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average unit cost was by apprenticeship framework of an apprenticeship place for a person aged 25 years and above in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 in (i) England and (ii) each region; and what estimate he has made of the cost in 2011-12. [64057]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The cost of delivering an Apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; length of stay on the programme; whether the framework is at Level 2 or 3; and the age of the participant. Therefore average unit costs are unlikely to provide a meaningful comparator.

Funding rates are calculated on a national basis only. The overall average unit cost[1] of a full apprenticeship framework for a person aged 25 years and above in England are set out in the following table. Further information about average unit costs for 2011/12 will be published in the next Skills Funding Agency guidance note.

Framework values

	25+ (£)
2008/09	3,883
2009/10	3,548
2010/11	3,059

[1] Average unit costs are based on the national rates for each academic year for Apprenticeships undertaken by learners aged 25 and over assuming all aspects of the Apprenticeship are required (namely key skills, NVQs and technical skills where appropriate) and that there is no prior learning. Apprenticeships for learners aged 25 and over are co-funded, with the employer expected to contribute towards the training costs.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average unit cost was by apprenticeship framework of an apprenticeship place for a person aged between 19 to 24 years in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 in (i) England and (ii) each region; and what estimate he has made of the cost in 2011-12. [64058]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the Apprenticeship framework is being delivered; length of stay on the programme; whether the framework is at level 2 or 3; and the age of the participant. Therefore average unit costs are unlikely to provide a meaningful comparator.

Funding rates are calculated on a national basis only. The overall average unit cost[1] of a full apprenticeship framework for a person aged 19 to 24 years of age in England are set out in the following table. Further information about average unit costs for 2011/12 will be published in the next Skills Funding Agency guidance note.

Framework values

	19 to 24 (£)
2008/09	3,883
2009/10	3,942
2010/11	3,823

[1] Average unit costs are based on the national rates for each academic year for Apprenticeships undertaken by learners aged 19 to 24 assuming all aspects of the Apprenticeship are required (namely key skills, NVQs and technical skills where appropriate) and that there is no prior learning. Apprenticeships for learners aged 19 to 24 are co-funded, with the employer expected to contribute towards the training costs.

Apprentices: Standards

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the head of the Skills Funding Agency on the quality of apprenticeships that last for six months or less. [64563]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* I have regular meetings with both the chief executive officers of the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) where a range of quality and delivery issues are discussed.

The Specification of Apprenticeships Standards in England (SASE), introduced in March 2011, sets out the requirements for apprenticeships and the NAS are working closely with sector skills councils, colleges and providers to manage its implementation. While there is no set minimum duration for an apprenticeship, as it depends on the apprentice's individual abilities and prior experience, we would generally expect an intermediate level apprenticeship to take about one year to complete. This will allow the apprentice not only to achieve the relevant qualifications, but also to demonstrate their competence in the job role.

Where a current delivery model falls short of the SASE, the Skills Funding Agency will work with the training provider or college to support them to change their delivery model to one that fully meets the requirements. Where the delivery model cannot be adapted NAS and the agency we will remove our support for the apprenticeship programme and cease funding.

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received from other Government Departments regarding arms export licences to Saudi Arabia. [64828]

Mr Prisk: All individual licence applications for the export of arms are circulated to the Foreign Commonwealth Office and Ministry Of Defence and to Department for International Development where issues of sustainable development are involved, who assess the application against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and advise the Department accordingly. From time to time advice is received from these Departments when extant licences have been reviewed in cases where circumstances have changed significantly from the time when the licences were granted. However we have received no representations from other Government Departments regarding arms export licences to Saudi Arabia outside of this advisory process.

Business: EC Subsidies

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect on UK *(a)* businesses and *(b)* jobs of EU subsidies to businesses in other EU member states. [62041]

Mr Prisk: EU structural and cohesion funds (SCF) provide funding to help narrow the gap in economic growth rates between different EU regions and member states. In the UK, they provide a source of programme funding which has to be matched by domestic funding (either public or private) which aim to improve the business environment, rather than a direct subsidy to business. This Department has not carried out an assessment of the impact on the UK of SCF programmes in other member states.

Business: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of providing supply chain financing for *(a)* public and *(b)* large private companies. [64515]

Mr Prisk: In addition to the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to foster diversity in financial services, we have highlighted the potential of supply chain financing in the Plan for Growth, published alongside Budget 2011. I have also met businesses and providers to discuss their experiences of supply chain financing. We are committed to increasing the awareness and understanding of a diverse range of finance forms, including supply chain finance, in both the public and private sectors.

Business: Government Assistance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist family-run businesses. [64415]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* Officials meet regularly with the Institute for Family Business (IFB) to gain an appreciation of the particular issues which these businesses face. We will continue to work with others to look at ways to encourage the growth and development of family businesses, including ensuring that information specific to their needs is included on the Business Link website:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/home

Business: Loans

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the number of companies eligible for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme. [64514]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) was introduced in January 2009, with a broader eligibility than the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) which it replaced. It has assisted 15,000 businesses who have been offered a total of £1.5 billion.

EFG supports loans to viable businesses with an annual turnover of up to £25 million seeking loans between £1,000 and £1 million, and is available to businesses in most business sectors. However, EFG is subject to certain sector restrictions arising from the EU de minimis State Aid rules, the Industrial Development Act 1982 (which provides the statutory basis for EFG) and also for national policy reasons. A list of the main sector restrictions is provided on the EFG Business Sectors page of the BIS website.

The operation of the EFG is kept under review, but at this time, we have no plans to change its eligibility criteria.

Careers Service: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will work for the new careers service in England in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [63596]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency which administers the current Next Step service estimates that the new service will be delivered by approximately 4,200 advisers in the first year of its operation. This estimate is based on the number of customer record management licences currently in force for the Next Step face to face service channel and the number of advisers employed in the Next Step and Connexions Direct contact centres.

Davenham Trust Ltd

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received any representations on the insolvency of Davenham Trust Ltd. [64943]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service has not received any representations about Davenham Trust Ltd which according to Companies House is not in a formal insolvency process.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received any representations on the financial relationship between the Royal Bank of Scotland and Davenham Trust Ltd; and if he will make a statement. [64944]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has received no representations regarding Davenham Trust Ltd or its financial relationship with Royal Bank of Scotland.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63321]

Mr Davey: The Department currently generates approximately 2,000 kWh per annum of low carbon energy from its estate. This is generated through 22m^2 of photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on the roof of the headquarters building, 1-19 Victoria street in London.

A feasibility study was conducted in 2006 into whether wind turbines could be installed on the roof of 1 Victoria street. The conclusion was that the wind speed was not sufficient to generate enough energy and planning permission was unlikely to be granted.

Connection to the proposed Whitehall and Pimlico Combined Heat and Power scheme has been investigated as an option to supply 1 Victoria street's heating demands. This is dependent on the economic viability of connecting the two schemes together.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64438]

Mr Davey: We do not retain details of meetings that have been declined.

Direct Selling: Regulation

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which bodies are responsible for the regulation of products that are marketed through direct selling. [64726]

Mr Davey: Where, due to their nature, the properties of products are subject to product specific regulations, those products are subject to the same regulations irrespective of the means by which they are marketed. Similarly, consumers enjoy the same basic rights irrespective of how goods are marketed, for example under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

However, the Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc Regulations 2008 and the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000 provide extra protection in relation to the supply of goods and services marketed by direct means. These cover, among other things, doorstep selling, sales over the internet, or sales over the telephone.

These regulations are enforced by local authority trading standards officers and the Office of Fair Trading.

Economic Growth: EC Action

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the initiatives brought forward by the European Commission in those areas identified by the Government as priorities for EU growth. [64883]

Mr Davey: The Government have identified the following areas as priorities for EU growth: completing the single market; trade liberalisation; reducing costs of doing business and promoting innovation. A summary assessment of all four areas is contained in the UK Government publication "Let's choose growth" published on 31 March this year.

Further assessment is contained in the following publications: "UK Government response to the European Commission Consultation to the Single Market Act" (February 2011); "Trade and Investment White Paper" (February 2011) and a series of 18 analytical supporting papers (publication ongoing); "Blueprint for Technology" (2010); and "Reducing Regulation made simple" (December 2010).

These publications are available from the Libraries of the House.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what actions the Government is taking at EU level to stimulate growth by *(a)* strengthening the single market, with an emphasis on services and the digital economy, *(b)* reducing the overall burden of regulation and *(c)* promoting free, fair and open trade with countries outside the EU. [64885]

Mr Davey: On 18 March the Prime Minister and eight other EU Prime Ministers wrote to Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso calling on the EU to focus its efforts on delivering growth. The signatories were the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia.

On 31 March the UK Government published "Let's Choose Growth", which set out the UK's strategy for creating the conditions necessary for growth within the EU. Priority areas identified are: completing the single market; unlocking the benefits of trade; reducing the costs of doing business and; promoting innovation. Government Ministers and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have actively promoted these messages with counterparts throughout the EU.

The Prime Minister has advocated EU growth policies at European Councils, as he made clear in his statement to the House on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 615-17. In order to take this work forward, on 6 July I hosted a ministerial meeting attended by signatories to the 18 March letter as well as Ireland, Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. We had a very useful discussion on microeconomic policies and from this officials will be following up on a number of agreed actions in Europe.

The publications referred to in this response are available from the Libraries of the House.

Education: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Researchers in Residence scheme. [65098]

Mr Willetts: The Researchers in Residence scheme, run by Research Councils UK (RCUK), has been externally evaluated every three years. In 2009 it was evaluated by GHK Consultancy. Programme effectiveness has been assessed on a quarterly basis by RCUK in the form of reports against key performance indicators,

A recent National Audit Office Report (Educating the Next Generation of Scientists) highlighted the impact of the Researchers in Residence scheme on increasing the percentage of pupils scoring grades A-C in A Level Mathematics in participating schools.

RCUK is working closely with this Department, the Department for Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) and other partner organisations, to explore how best to deliver effective programmes which allow researchers to increasingly engage with schools.

Employment: Legislation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what reviews into employment law are currently being conducted; and when each will report. [64884]

Mr Davey: The employment law review being co-ordinated by the Department is the cross-Government review of employment-related law to which all Departments which impose requirements on employers are contributing. In May, we announced the next set of priority areas under consideration during this Parliament. The Government gives regular updates on the review.

In addition, employment-related law will be the subject of the Red Tape Challenge spotlight in September.

English Language: Leicester

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 724W, on English language: Leicester, how many adult learners in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* Leicester local authority area are eligible for a level of fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; and how many of these will cease to be eligible after the introduction of his proposed changes; [63637]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of demand for English for speakers of other languages courses in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* the Leicester local authority area; [63638]

(3) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of women from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities who will enter employment as a result of the planned reduction in funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; [63640]

(4) when he expects to publish the equality impact assessment for his planned changes to the funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; [63711]

(5) how many and what proportion of learners who are in receipt of fee remission for English for speakers of other languages courses also receive active benefits in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* the Leicester local authority area; [63776]

(6) what his estimate is of the effect on the number of adult and community education jobs of the reduction in funding for English for speakers of other languages courses. [63804]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows adult (19+) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) participation in Leicester local education authority and Leicester South constituency for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Adult (19+) ESOL participation by geography, 2009/10

	Number
Leicester local education authority	5,140
Leicester South constituency	1,780

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

The Government currently provide 50% fee remission for all learners in England participating in ESOL who are eligible for public funded skills provision. Those on income based-benefits are eligible for full fee remission.

From August 2011, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

This Department does not make estimates of the demand for courses. Further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for meeting the needs of their local community, and increased freedoms and flexibilities that we have introduced will help them respond and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

An assessment of how the changes announced in Skills for Sustainable Growth may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department. I expect to be able to publish this before summer recess.

We do not directly record what type of benefits people are receiving when they take up training. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for any learning they undertake. From these data we can provide some information on claimants but, this should be used with caution given it does not provide an accurate picture of the full range of benefit entitlements that a person has. Using the fees waived field in the individual learner record we can say for the 2009/10 academic year that 4,800 ESOL enrolments for adult (19+) learners in Leicester local education authority and 1,700 ESOL enrolments for adult (19+) learners in Leicester South constituency received fee remission as the learner was in receipt of an income-related benefit.

This Department does not make estimates of the effect of policy changes on FE jobs. As autonomous bodies, it is for FE colleges and training providers to make staffing decisions based on their business need.

English Language: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the reduction in fee support for English classes for speakers of other languages on the number of people taking such courses. [63949]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by the Department and will be published before summer recess.

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in teaching English for speakers of other languages courses; what estimate he has made of the likely number so employed after the implementation of his proposed funding changes; and if he will make a statement; [64308]

(2) how many representations he has received *(a)* in support of and *(b)* in opposition to his proposed changes to the funding of English for speakers of other languages courses; [64309]

(3) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of households requiring English for speakers of other languages courses; and if he will publish any such research; [64310]

(4) on what date his Department commenced work on the equality impact assessment in respect of its proposed changes to funding for English for speakers of other languages courses; [64311]

(5) what assessment he has made of the average household income of those with English for speakers of other language needs; [64548]

(6) what assessment he has made of the impact on school children of access by their parents to English for speakers of other language courses; [64550]

(7) what research his Department has conducted into the level of disposable income available to families with English for speakers of other language needs. [64551]

Mr Willetts: Since the publication of "Skills for Sustainable Growth", a large number of organisations and individuals have made representations to this Department about the impact of our proposals for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). Between 1 January and 31 May, over 1,200 pieces of correspondence were received, and the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), discussed ESOL in person with a number of hon. Members, further education (FE) bodies and interested groups.

An assessment of the impact of the changes announced in "Skills for Sustainable Growth" on ESOL learners was agreed in principle in November 2010 and formally commissioned in February 2011. The assessment will be published before the summer recess.

This Department has made no estimate of the effect of policy changes on employment in the FE sector since, as autonomous bodies, it is for FE colleges and other training providers to make staffing decisions based on their business needs. Neither has this Department estimated the demand for specific courses. National Statistics on FE participation and achievement are published quarterly.

Likewise, this Department has made no specific assessment of the impact on school children of their parents' access to ESOL courses and has not undertaken any research into household income or the level of disposable income available to families with ESOL needs.

Attitudes and views from both learners and non-learners were, however, examined by the 2005 National Adult Learners Survey. This showed that difficulty in paying course fees was only cited by 21% of respondents (21% of learners and 18% of non-learners) as an obstacle to learning.

Analysis of the income levels of Level 2 and Level 3 learners in the FE sector was also undertaken using data drawn from the Labour Force Survey, Apprenticeship Pay Survey and the Prior Qualifications Survey. For work-based learning, around two-thirds of learners were in the bottom two income quintiles (ie earning below £17,000 per year), and for college-based learning around four-fifths of those who were working were in the bottom two income quintiles. The analysis did not explicitly cover either Skills for Life (SfL) or ESOL learners, as it was done to assess the impact of changes to age and qualification-related entitlements which were announced in the November 2010 Skills for Sustainable Growth and Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth. We are currently conducting a new survey of incomes of FE sector learners which will include SfL and ESOL learners. Results from this survey should be available by the end of this year.

Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the engagement of *(a)* women and *(b)* Black and Asian minority ethnic groups in developing skills for low-carbon energy technologies. [65411]

Mr Willetts: Colleges will have the freedom to respond to demands from all employers and learners, delivering the skills that an increasingly dynamic economy needs. That includes skills in the low carbon energy sector. We have no plans to offer special support to any specific group in skills for low carbon technologies.

Export Development Credits: Colombia

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department's support for UK businesses in Colombia does not *(a)* adversely affect the human rights situation in that country and *(b)* support activities requiring land use. [64101]

Mr Prisk: The UK Government are committed to promoting respect for human rights among UK companies operating anywhere overseas. We stand ready to help British firms with advice on their political and reputational risk management.

The UK Government are committed to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We encourage all British companies to observe these international standards.

UK Trade and Investment and human rights colleagues in the British embassy in Bogota work closely together on these issues. They are also working with Colombian business organisations to adapt the international guiding principles on business and human rights to a Colombian context, and so help businesses create policies to ensure they are adhered to. The outcome will be made available to British businesses once finalised.

Colombia passed the historic Land and Victims Law on 11 June 2011. It aims to provide compensation to victims of Colombia's internal armed conflict and to restitute land to those who have been forcibly displaced. The land reform initiative should have a positive impact on the human rights agenda. We support British companies involved in land issues in Colombia provided they follow the agreed processes and international standards.

Further Education

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from further education colleges on the provision and accreditation of degree courses. [63622]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I have received a substantial number of recent representations from further education colleges on their provision of degree courses. The Higher Education White Paper sets out our proposals to improve the provision of degree courses in further education colleges. This includes allowing further education colleges and other providers who combine good quality with value for money to bid for a flexible margin of 20,000 student places in 2012/13 and changes to degree-awarding powers that are likely to increase the range of validating institutions, giving greater choice for further education colleges.

Green Investment Bank: Location

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) for what reasons capital costs have not been included in the selection criteria for the location of the Green Investment Bank; [64451]

(2) what relative weighting is accorded to operational costs in the selection criteria for the location for the Green Investment Bank; [64452]

(3) which aspects of the selection criteria for a location for the Green Investment Bank are location-dependent; and what relative weighting is applied to each of these aspects; [64453]

(4) which skills he has identified as being most necessary in the local workforce for the Green Investment Bank; what work his Department is doing to identify those areas of the country with high levels of these skills; and if he will make a statement; [64527]

(5) at what point London, Edinburgh and Bristol were selected as contender cities to host the Green Investment Bank; which other locations he considered; and for what reasons each of these was rejected as a potential location. [64528]

Mr Prisk: The sighting of the Green Investment Bank will need to ensure it provides easy access to deep pools of talent with the necessary 'green' and financial services skills.

The Government's document "Update on the design of the Green Investment Bank" identified a number of criteria for the decision on location. One of these criteria was commercial costs, which includes capital costs. The bank's location will be decided after state aid approval has been given and a decision on the relative weighting of each criterion will be made in due course.

In the meantime, Ministers will consider all submitted business cases for the bank's location. To date, London, Edinburgh and Bristol have each made representations to host the bank.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received in support of making it easier for higher education institutions to change their legal status in the last six months for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [64045]

Mr Willetts: I have received a number of representations leading up to the Higher Education White Paper on possible barriers faced by new providers wishing to enter the market and by institutions seeking to expand, including around legal status.

The forthcoming regulatory framework consultation will explore whether there is a need for legislative change in order to make to process of changing legal status easier.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of young people entering higher education from disadvantaged areas between May 1997 and April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [64046]

Mr Willetts: In January 2010 the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England". In the mid-1990s the young participation rate for these disadvantaged areas was on average 13%. The equivalent figure for the 2009-10 entry cohort was 19%. Disadvantaged areas reflect that quintile of wards with traditionally the lowest recorded rates of young participation.

A copy of the full HEFCE report can be found at the following website:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03/

This data covers the cohorts of young people from 1994/95 to 2009/10.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling has been carried out by his Department to assess the likely effect of proposals in the Higher Education White Paper on existing courses and institutions. [64946]

Mr Willetts: The impact assessment of the proposals in the Higher Education White Paper can be found on our website. This includes modelling on the potential effect of proposals on different types of institutions.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received in favour of amending the process of gaining *(a)* a university title and *(b)* degree awarding powers. [65087]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I have received a number of representations from a range of organisations in favour of amending the process on university title and degree awarding powers. The Higher Education White Paper sets out our proposals in these areas and the forthcoming regulatory framework consultation will explore these proposals in more detail and seek further views.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education institutions have contacted his Department regarding the possibility of their ceasing to be public institutions in the last 12 months. [65099]

Mr Willetts: No institutions have contacted the Department in this way.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what administrative or other support he has made available to the Government's Advocate for Access to Education; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such support. [64448]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills agreed to provide a limited amount of administrative support because of the natural synergies between the Advocate for Access to Education work and Higher Education policy. The Department provided him with a desk and a phone line at no additional cost to the Department as this was available within our normal capacity. He was assigned the services of two BIS officials—one part time and one full time—who were between permanent roles within the Department, the approximate employment costs for whom were £28,000 (1.0) and £14,500 (0.5) respectively. He was also assigned two members of Department for Education staff (Grade 7 and EO both 0.4 pro rata) during the busiest period.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the access agreements between the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) and individual higher education institutions made in the most recent year available; which higher education institutions have had plans rejected by OFFA; and what changes OFFA has sought in the plans of each such higher education institution which has submitted plans. [64492]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The director of Fair Access is independent. The submission of draft access agreements and the subsequent discussions with higher education institutions are a matter for the director of Office for Fair Access (OFFA). Once approved by the director, all access agreements are published on the website of the Office for Fair Access at:

http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/

The director has said he intends to announce the outcome of the process of approving access agreements for 2012/13 on 12 July 2011.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from the Government's Advocate for Access to Education on the access agreements of individual higher education institutions; and which institutions have been the subject of such representations. [64493]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The submission of draft access agreements and the subsequent discussions with higher education institutions are a matter for the director of Fair Access, who is independent of Government. Once approved by the director, all access agreements are published on the website of the Office for Fair Access at:

http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/

The right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) has now completed his term as the Government's Advocate for Access to Education. He will shortly be presenting his final report to the Prime Minister and it making it public.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allow the Office for Fair Access to reduce the total number of students studying at a university that is not achieving widening participation benchmarks; and if he will make a statement. [64494]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The powers of the Director of Fair Access were established by the Higher Education Act 2004 and do not include the power to control or reduce student numbers.

Every institution that intends to charge more than £6,000 for its courses must have an Access Agreement approved by the Director of Fair Access. Without an approved Access Agreement the institution cannot charge more than the basic level of £6,000 from 2012/13.

The Director of Fair Access has a range of sanctions available to use against any institution that is not meeting the terms of its Access Agreement.

The major sanction available is not to approve or renew an Access Agreement. This would remove the institution's right to charge its students above the basic level. The Director of Fair Access may also impose a fine (via the Higher Education Funding Council for England) of up to £500,000, or require restitution if students have been disadvantaged or commitments have not been honoured.

The recent White Paper on Higher Education set out our plans to strengthen the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), and we have asked the new Director to advise us on whether OFFA's current powers are the right ones to achieve its statutory goals and to report to us this autumn about further sanctions and powers to support OFFA in its work—so that it can go further and faster to drive fair access and widen participation.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allow the Office for Fair Access to fine universities for not achieving widening participation benchmarks; and if he will make a statement. [64495]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The Director of Fair Access has a range of sanctions available to use against any institution that is not meeting the terms of its Access Agreement.

The major sanction available is not to approve or renew an Access Agreement. This would remove the institution's right to charge its students above the basic level. The Director of Fair Access may also impose a fine (via the Higher Education Funding Council for England) of up to £500,000, or require restitution if students have been disadvantaged or commitments have not been honoured.

The recent White Paper on Higher Education set out our plans to strengthen the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), and we have asked the new Director to advise us on whether OFFA's current powers are the right ones to achieve its statutory goals and to report to us this autumn about further sanctions and powers to support OFFA in its work—so that it can go further and faster to drive fair access and widen participation.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which hon. Members his Department has supplied copies of university access agreements and proposed agreements since May 2010; and what the status was of the relevant educational institution in each case. [64512]

Mr Willetts: The Director of Fair Access is independent of Government. The submission of draft access agreements and the subsequent discussions with higher education institutions are a matter for the director. Once approved by the director, all access agreements are published on the website of the Office for Fair Access at:

http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to publish the contextual data used by individual higher education institutions in admissions decisions as set out in paragraph 5.18 of the Higher Education White Paper. [64520]

Mr Willetts: We have no plans to publish the contextual data used by universities.

Universities are responsible for their own admissions policies and decisions. Whether to use such information is up to each university, as they will be best placed to decide on the information that will help to identify the candidates with the talent and potential to succeed at that institution or on a particular course. The Government believe that the use of such data is a valid and appropriate way for institutions to broaden access while maintaining excellence, so long as individuals are considered on their merits, and institutions' procedures are fair, transparent and evidence-based.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to promote the allocation of university places for students with non-graduate parents. [64521]

Mr Willetts: The Government have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving fair access in higher education. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation, and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Higher education institutions will deliver a range of outreach activities as part of their access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access, and their widening participation strategic assessments, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what factors underlay his decision to ask for advice in the autumn on the first round of approvals of new Access Agreements set out in paragraph 5.25 of the Higher Education White Paper; and whether such advice has been asked for in the past on the basis set out in the White Paper. [64523]

Mr Willetts: Ministers at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wrote to the Director of Fair Access on 10 February 2011 setting out the Government's expectations about how he should approach the approval and monitoring of new Access Agreements. The guidance set out significantly increased expectations for the priority that institutions should give to fair access and widening participation. We have made clear that we expect there to be a strengthened process for agreeing the level of investment each institution should make in activities to improve access, linked to progress being made and distance to travel to achieve published measures.

In that letter we asked the Director for his formal Access Agreement monitoring outcome report to analyse and comment on institutions' performance against their own benchmarks, measures and targets, and how these become more ambitious in relation to how much above the basic level an institution intends to charge. We also asked him to report to Government on his experiences of approving Access Agreements and how well institutions have been able to respond to these new arrangements, including any additional powers or requirements that may be needed in order to secure rapid progress. In the longer term we will also discuss these issues with the new Director.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the use of contextual data in the university admissions process; and if he will make a statement. [64773]

Mr Willetts: My ministerial colleagues and I regularly meet with stakeholders and receive letters on the use of contextual data in the university admissions process. In recent months, the subject has been raised at meetings with the Office for Fair Access, the Sutton Trust, Universities UK and university mission groups. We have also received written representations from a number of Members of both Houses, private individuals and representative bodies. Those representations encompass a range of opinion.

The Government believe that the use of contextual data is a valid and appropriate way for institutions to broaden access while maintaining excellence, so long as individuals are considered on their merits, and institutions' procedures are fair, transparent and evidence based.

Higher Education: Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with universities on the research and development of low-carbon energy technologies. [65412]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills does not directly provide universities with funding for research into low-carbon energy technologies. However, the Department provides funding to the Research Councils, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), which provide a range of support to universities.

The Research Councils UK Energy Programme is an ongoing investment in research and postgraduate training. The programme supports a full spectrum of energy research to help the UK meet its energy and environmental targets and to ensure a secure, affordable, sustainable energy supply for all.

Representatives from this Department and TSB attend the meetings of the Energy Programme Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The membership of the SAC includes representatives from universities.

Higher Education: Pay

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on pay and conditions for academic staff of price competition between public and private sector providers of higher education. [64762]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions are private sector organisations. All providers of higher education are responsible themselves for determining the pay and conditions of their staff, as such the Government have made no such assessment. Institutions which currently receive public funding often compete for the best staff nationally and internationally, and with the other professions.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates the Minister for Universities and Science has met representatives of *(a)* Kaplan UK, *(b)* Kaplan Europe and *(c)* Apollo Group International since his appointment. [64480]

Mr Willetts: I met with representatives of Apollo Group on 10 May 2011. I attended an event where a representative of Kaplan Europe was present on 3 May 2011 and an event where a representative of Kaplan UK was present on 17 May 2011.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

Higher Education: Public Expenditure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for the purposes of widening participation in each of the last three years; how much he expects it to allocate for such purposes in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [64047]

Mr Willetts: The following table contains the funding allocated by HEFCE over the past three years.

£ million to nearest whole number

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Aimhigher and Aimhigher Associates	84	89	87
Additional HE summer schools	1	2	—
Widening participation allocation	110	141	143

The Government have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving fair access in higher education. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation; and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Higher education Institutions (HEIs) will deliver a range of outreach activities as part of their access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access, and their widening participation strategic assessments, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The future role of the current Widening Participation Allocation will be considered as part of HEFCE's consultation on the use of the teaching grant to ensure that it supports successful widening participation activity in the future, and the Government have already made clear that this remains a priority.

The Government are investing in the new National Scholarship programme, providing funding for the programme with £50 million in the first year (2012/13), rising to £100 million in 2013/14 and £150 million a year from 2014/15. This funding will be allocated by HEFCE. Institutions will be expected to match fund Government's contribution.

In addition, every institution that intends to charge more than £6,000 for its courses must have an Access Agreement approved by the Director of Fair Access. Access Agreements are plans drawn up by institutions setting out how they will promote access to higher education from under-represented groups and the investment they will make in outreach and other access activities.

Higher Education: Standards

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what evidence he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of relaxing regulations governing providers' access to student loans and university accreditation on the quality of higher education. [64761]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper published on 30 June proposes a single, transparent regulatory framework with which all providers in the higher education system will need to comply if they wish to benefit from public funding. The purpose is to create a level playing field for all providers while maintaining high quality and academic standards in all higher education provision. We will consult in the summer on detailed proposals for the future regulatory framework.

Insolvency

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* the viability of businesses and *(b)* levels of employment of requiring suppliers to continue to supply companies in administration. [64831]

Mr Davey: The Government are currently considering the case for updating Section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the wider issue of termination clauses. My officials at The Insolvency Service are meeting with stakeholders to hear their views and to gauge an initial view of the merits of such a change, including an initial assessment of the costs and benefits. Further detailed quantifiable evidence will be required if this issue is taken forward.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what organisations he has met to discuss termination clauses in insolvency cases since the written ministerial statement of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 37WS, on a company voluntary arrangement moratorium. [64882]

Mr Davey: Officials have met various representative stakeholder groups to discuss the responses contained in the Restructuring Moratorium Consultation response document. These discussions included the topic of termination clauses in respect of the moratorium and other insolvency procedures. The organisations they have met are the British Bankers Association, the City of London Law Society (Financial Law Committee), R3 (Association of Business Recovery Professionals), Ernst and Young LLP and the Insolvency Lawyers' Association. Further meetings are scheduled to take place with the City of London Law Society (Insolvency Law Committee) and the Association for Financial Markets in Europe.

Labour Migration

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the performance of migrants in the labour market in the last five years. [64458]

Mr Davey: In the last five years the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not commissioned or evaluated the performance of migrants in the labour market.

However, the Government have asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise it on migration matters. As a part of its work the MAC has published reports that describe the performance of migrants in the UK labour market. The MAC'S reports are available on its website:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/reports-publications/

National Income: Pakistan

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the total contribution to the economy of Pakistan of net exports, investment and aid from the UK as a proportion of that country's GDP. [63610]

Mr Prisk: UK exports of goods and services to Pakistan were worth £852 million in 2009 (corresponding to about 0.8% of Pakistan's GDP), while UK imports from Pakistan were worth £1,068 million (about 1.0%).

The stock of UK foreign direct investment in Pakistan at the end of 2009 was worth about £1,164 million (corresponding to about 1.1% of Pakistan's GDP). The total figure for Overseas Development Aid (including that for multilateral institutions in Pakistan) is £233.7 million (or about 0.22%% of Pakistan's GDP).

National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of funding provided by his Department to *(a)* RMT Learning, *(b)* Rail Union Learning and *(c)* the RMT National Education Centre in each of the last 10 years. [64723]

Mr Willetts: The Government currently provide £21.5 million (via an annual grant agreement) to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn. Since April 2007 the fund has been managed and administered by unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation under an agreement with the Department which directs the level and type of training that should be supported by the fund. Detailed information on allocation of funds to trade unions and cost of courses supported by ULF is not held centrally by the Department. However, TUC records indicate spend as follows:

	Spend
(a) RMT Learning	
2000/01	9,864
2001/02	40,300
2003/04	168,641
2008/09	347,257
2009/10	492,401
2010/11	472,003
Total	1,530,46
(b) Rail Union Learning	
2004/05	649,062
2005/06	665,972
2006/07	607,694
2007/08	817,639
Total	2,740,367

(c) RMT National Education Centre

The TUC do not provide any direct resources for RMT education. This is funded by the union.

Projects supported under the Union learning Fund (ULF) have objectives specifically aimed at widening participation in learning: Skills for Life, social inclusion and equal opportunities and improving access to learning. Unions and other ULRs play a significant role to work effectively with employers, employees and learning providers in helping adults, particularly those who are poorly qualified and with no background in continuing their education, to become engaged and more confident with learning and improve their skills.

New Businesses

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprise start-ups there were in *(a)* York, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each year since 2005. [65677]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many small and medium-sized enterprise start-ups there were in (a) York, (b) Yorkshire and the Humber and (c) England in each year since 2005. [65677]

Statistics on the number of enterprise births each year are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births by employment size in (a) York, (b) Yorkshire and the Humber and (c) England in each year since 2005. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in December 2011.

Enterprises births in York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber region and England, from 2005 to 2009

	York unitary authority		*Yorkshire and the Humber*		*England*	
	0 to 49 (Small)	*50 to 250 (Medium)*	*0 to 49 (Small)*	*50 to 250 (Medium)*	*0 to 49 (Small)*	*50 to 250 (Medium)*
2005	765	0	19,885	35	241,015	325
2006	660	0	18,515	35	224,770	285
2007	700	0	20,355	25	246,335	295
2008	735	0	18,650	20	236,050	245
2009	570	0	16,975	30	208,755	230

Office for Fair Access: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the budget of the Office for Fair Access in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [64496]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* In the financial year 2010/11 the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) baseline budget was £484,000, We have agreed in the course of this year (2011/12) to increase this to £630,000 and have said to the director that we will keep under review his needs for resources.

The Government have committed through the recent Higher Education White Paper to strengthen OFFA, so that it can provide more active and energetic challenge and support to universities and colleges. We will want to work with the director on the size and structure of OFFA but will make significantly more resources available, increasing capacity up to around four times its original level.

For any university wanting to charge more than £6,000, the Government issued, in February, new and strengthened guidance to the director of fair access asking the director to review access agreements annually rather than every five years as at present.

Regional Growth Fund: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids to the regional growth fund from the west midlands were unsuccessful in the first round. [63759]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* Sixty six bids from the west midlands were unsuccessful in round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund.

Skills Funding Agency: Public Expenditure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate to the Skills Funding Agency to fund the Government's new careers service *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [64048]

Mr Hayes: In "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", the Government announced a budget for information, advice and guidance of £81.016 million in 2011-12 and an indicative budget of £84.438 million for 2012-13.

The budget will fund the development and running costs of the new National Careers Service which will be launched in April 2012, and development of Lifelong Learning Accounts to be launched in September this year. The web and telephone aspects of the National Careers Service will be delivered nationally. In financial year 2012-13, the Skills Funding Agency expects each region's allocation for delivery of the face to face element of the service to be broadly similar to those made in the current financial year.

The regional allocations to support delivery of the face to face element of the service in 2011-12 are as follows:

Region	*Core (£)*
East Midlands	3,504,037
East of England	4,997,217
London	8,659,289
North East	1,393,546
North West	5,780,900
South East	6,900,888
South West	3,362,101
West Midlands	2,705,739
Yorkshire and The Humber	3,946,226
Total	41,249,942

St George's Property Services London

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will examine the circumstances surrounding the appointment of Paul Clark and David Whitehouse as administrators of St George's Property Service London Ltd. [64945]

Mr Davey: Neither the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, nor I have the authority to investigate the circumstances surrounding the appointment of the administrators. The administrators act under the supervision of the court and issues associated with their appointment and subsequent actions have been the subject of judicial consideration. The Chancellor of the High Court in his judgment on appeal delivered on 14 October 2010 set aside an order to remove the administrators.

With regard to the general conduct of the administrators, any concerns would be for the consideration of the regulatory body responsible for authorising the administrators, in this case the Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA).

Student Loans Company

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Student Loans Company; and if he will make a statement. [64044]

Mr Willetts: As set out in the Higher Education White Paper "Students at the heart of the system", published in June 2011, there will be changes to student finance funding flows as the balance of public investment shifts from grants to loans. This has implications for how the Student Loans Company and the Higher Education Funding Council for England work together and they have already begun joint planning for closer co-operation in the future and to consider any structural changes that might be required. Any changes arising from the White Paper will take into account the service which applicants for student finance have a right to expect.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 478W, on students: finance, through what *(a)* radio, *(b)* press and *(c)* digital outlets the campaign has been provided; and what has been the cost of such advertising in each media. [58435]

Mr Willetts: I will write to the right hon. Member for Tottenham with details of the radio networks, publications and digital outlets used during the first phase of the higher education information campaign which ran between 9 May and the end of June and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House. In total the Department has thus far allocated nearly £2.5 million to its information campaign. The campaign is designed to be proportionate while achieving its aim of ensuring that prospective students and their families find out about the full package of support available for access to higher education. During the first phase the expected campaign costs on the specified media requested, which excludes costs for a youth media partnership including television and other activities, are set out as follows:

(a) radio is expected to cost £257,328.

(b) press advertising is expected to cost £98,801.

(c) digital is expected to cost £76,291. In addition paid search via digital media is expected to cost £69,322.

A further information campaign burst will commence in the autumn alongside other initiatives.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 573W, on students: finance, what expenditure his Department expects to incur on advertisements *(a)* through radio, *(b)* through television, *(c)* online and *(d)* through other media to communicate student finance arrangements for financial years (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [60652]

Mr Willetts: Decisions about what expenditure will be incurred in 2011-12 by the Department and the Student Loans Company (SLC) will be proportionate and any additional expenditure timed to coincide with those periods when students and their parents/carers need information. Account will also be taken of the evaluation of the first phase of campaign activity and, in the case of the SLC, application numbers. It is not therefore possible to say how any additional expenditure will be allocated in 2011-12.

However, of the £1.475 million allocated to the information campaign, aimed at ensuring potential students and their parents or carers know about the full package of support from 2012, the following sums have been allocated to date. Information is also supplied covering the expenditure by the SLC for those students considering higher education in 2011:

Expenditure by media covering the 2011-12 financial year

		£
	BIS	*SLC*
Radio	257,328	—
TV[1]	181,025	—
Online[2]	76,291 plus 69,322	27,600
Other media	101,951	32,400

[1] TV: This was a media partnership which provides access to several media channels including Channel 4 youth oriented TV channels.
[2] In addition £69,322 was paid for digital search.

An additional budget of £960,000 has recently been approved for a direct mailing to potential students, school road shows, additional evaluation and an enhancement to the campaign website.

Budgets for 2012-13 expenditure are not yet known.

Students: Loans

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether his Department's consultation on potential early repayment mechanisms for student loans applies to sums which have already been borrowed but not yet repaid; [65297]

(2) whether the Government's consultation on the introduction of early repayment mechanisms for student loans applies only to loans taken out for the academic years 2012/13 and beyond. [65298]

Mr Willetts: The potential early repayment mechanisms, which are currently the subject of consultation, would be applied only to student loans provided from academic year 2012/13 onwards as part of the new student finance system.

Student loans provided under the existing income contingent repayment system would not be affected by any early repayment mechanism, were one to be introduced. Such a system would not apply to either existing loans or those issued in the future to students who started their course prior to September 2012, and who remained eligible for loans under the current system of student finance.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of university undergraduates starting courses in autumn 2012 are expected to take out a taxpayer-funded loan if there are *(a)* penalties and *(b)* no penalties for early repayment. [65299]

Mr Willetts: The Department currently assumes that of the students starting courses in autumn 2012 that are eligible to take out a taxpayer-funded fee loan, 90% will do so.

The Government are currently consulting on potential early repayment mechanisms. As part of this consultation we are seeking views regarding the potential impact on borrowers of the proposed options.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date *(a)* officials in his Department were, *(b)* Ministers in his Department were and *(c)* he was informed of the outcome of the tender for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [64749]

Mr Prisk: Officials in this Department were formally notified late on 14 June 2011 and I and other BIS Ministers were fully informed of the details of the final decision on 15 June 2011.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on the decision to award the Thameslink contract to an overseas consortium. [63730]

Mr Prisk: Ministers are not allowed to discuss the details of individual bids for contracts before they are awarded. The Invitation to Tender produced in 2008 specified the evaluation criteria by which bids for the Thameslink contract would be judged. The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and I have jointly written to the Prime Minister outlining our plan for the Growth Review to fully explore the opportunity to take a more strategic approach to major public procurement.

THQ Digital Studios

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011 to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on THQ, what discussions UK Trade & Investment officials have had with representatives of THQ on the closure of its Warrington studios. [64169]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* A UK Trade & Investment official met with the Senior Vice President, European Publishing in Woking on 23 March 2011 and more recently met with the Executive Vice President of Global Publishing in the USA on 8 June 2011. Neither mentioned the closure of the Warrington studios at these meetings.

TUC Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to TUC Education in each of the last 10 years. [64725]

Mr Willetts: Since April 2010, the Skills Funding Agency has been responsible for funding post-19 further education (FE) and skills provision delivered through FE colleges and training organisations (the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) had this responsibility from 2001).

Each academic year, FE colleges and training organisations receive a post-19 funding allocation at the programme level (for example budgets for adult skills, adult safeguarded learning and/or offender learning and skills). As funding is not allocated at the learning aim level the amount of money spent on TUC learning aims is not reported centrally by the Skills Funding Agency (or the LSC previously).

From the 2011/12 academic year we have introduced a single adult skills budget. This will provide FE colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities (classroom, workshop, online and in the workplace).

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a value for money assessment of the use of the funding from the public purse for each round of the Union Modernisation Fund. [64722]

Mr Davey: Yes. The successful projects from each round of the Union Modernisation Fund are evaluated and the results published to enable others to test innovative new ideas, to learn what works and to apply these lessons more widely.

Evaluation reports for rounds one and two can be found on the BIS website as follows:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Policies/employment-matters/strategies/umf

Plans are now being considered for the evaluation of round three projects when they are completed.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to each trade union under each round of the Union Modernisation Fund; and for what purposes each such amount was provided. [64724]

Mr Davey: A list of the trade unions' projects supported under Union Modernisation Fund rounds one to three will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Further information on all projects can be found on the BIS website as follows:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Policies/employment-matters/strategies/umf

Working Hours: EU Law

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials of his Department have had with (A) the UK Permanent Representative to the EU and (B) the Department of Health, on revisions to the application of the European Working Time Directive in the last 12 months. [64181]

Mr Davey: Restricting the application of the Working Time Directive in the United Kingdom is a key coalition commitment and Ministers and officials in this Department work closely with the office of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU and with the Department of Health, and with other interested Departments to achieve this objective. Although formal European negotiations on a revised directive have yet to begin, Departments have worked together to ensure UK views on the directive are known and understood, in particular by the Commission and other member states.

It would not be practical to record the ongoing, regular contacts between Departments on these matters. At ministerial level, in addition to discussions within Cabinet Committees, I met the Minister of State for Health my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns) on 14 September 2010; the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I met the Secretary of State for Health, on 3 May, and the Secretary of State for Health and I will jointly visit Brussels on 13 July to meet with Commissioner Andor to discuss Working Time.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the importance of airports to the economy. [65178]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the process of developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation, the Department for Transport published a scoping document in March 2011, chapter 2 of which provides information on the economic contribution of the air transport sector. The scoping document provides an opportunity for respondents submit further evidence on how aviation benefits the UK. The scoping document can be found at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2011-09/consultationdocument.pdf

Aviation: Safety

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will publish the Civil Aviation Authority's SAFE programme for the evaluation of aircrew fatigue; [64096]

(2) how much the Civil Aviation Authority has spent on the development of the SAFE programme for the evaluation of aircrew fatigue. [64098]

Mrs Villiers: The System for Aircrew Fatigue Evaluation (SAFE) was developed by the Civil Aviation Authority and QinetiQ. They jointly hold the intellectual property rights. The CAA is currently working with QinetiQ to make the SAFE software available for purchase.

The overall cost of the development of the SAFE programme is a matter for the CAA. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Chair of the CAA at CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway London WC2B 6TE.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of High Speed 1. [62649]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not made any economic assessment for High Speed one in the recent past. However, London and Continental Railway had commissioned an independent study carried out by Colin Buchanan and Voleterra on the economic impact for HS1 in 2009. A copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.colinbuchanan.com/uploads/cms/files/147e7dfc-2a53-4267-83d7-72bdde92062e.pdf

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Leasing

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the agreement reached with Borealis Infrastructure and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan for the leasing of High Speed 1. [64775]

Mrs Villiers: The HS1 Concession is available on the High Speed 1 Limited website and can be downloaded at:

http://highspeed1.co.uk/regulatory/concession-agreement

Crossrail Line: Public Lavatories

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether toilet facilities will be fitted where a station is to be rebuilt under the Crossrail programme. [64781]

Mrs Villiers: Although final decisions have not been taken, Crossrail Ltd and Network Rail currently envisage retaining/reintroducing toilets at stations where facilities already exist (but are not necessarily available for use at present) and to provide toilets at stations that are being significantly rebuilt.

SOCA: Licence Revocation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* had their pilot's licence revoked and *(b)* were disqualified from driving following a recommendation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63722]

Mrs Villiers: The CAA and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency do not hold information on where a Serious Organised Crime Agency recommendation has led to a licence revocation.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bid clarification requests were made by the shortlisted bidders in respect of the Greater Anglia franchise in the latest period for which figures are available; and to how many such requests his Department responded within its target time for such responses. [63631]

Mrs Villiers: As of 30 June, 719 clarification requests were made by shortlisted bidders. We undertake to respond expeditiously having regard to the extent and availability of information requested. We endeavour to respond to all queries before bids are submitted. We do not state a specific target time to respond but aim for a 14 calendar day turnaround for clarification requests for which information is readily available. We achieved this on 475 of the requests.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what target times have been set for the existing operator to respond to bid clarification requests from the shortlisted bidders for the Greater Anglia franchise. [63632]

Mrs Villiers: A general target time of 14 calendar days is stipulated for the existing operator to respond to bid clarification requests. However the time taken to respond can depend on the nature, extent and availability of the information requested.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of responses the current operator has provided to bid clarification requests within the target timeframe in respect of the bidding process for the Greater Anglia franchise. [63633]

Mrs Villiers: The current operator has had 448 clarification requests to respond to as of Friday 1 July 2011. Of these, 405 have been responded to and 220 of these were replied to within 14 calendar days, approximately 54%. The time taken to respond can depend on the nature, extent and availability of the information requested.

High Speed 2

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the *(a)* costs and *(b)* effects of changes required to Euston station and its environs as a result of (i) High Speed 2 and (ii) Rail Package 2. [64060]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* HS2 would enable the redevelopment of Euston station, which would likely be necessary regardless of whether HS2 proceeds. The redevelopment and expansion of the station, including 10 HS2 platforms, a new ground-level concourse serving the whole station, the reconfiguration and expansion of the existing inadequate London Underground ticket hall and a new bus interchange would cost £1.01 billion to construct. This figure excludes HS2 costs (e.g. design and project management), compensation costs, and risk and optimism bias. However, the Government anticipate that a considerable proportion of this cost could be recouped from at-station commercial and residential development. Information on the property and other impacts of the station redevelopment are set out in the Appraisal of Sustainability, available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents

Rail Package 2 would require the provision of three additional platforms at Euston, which has been costed at £62 million, excluding on-costs, compensation, and any improvements to London Underground interfaces. This work would be conducted within the existing station footprint. It would be likely to cause significant disruption to passengers as there would be no scope to commission new platforms ahead of closing existing platforms for redevelopment. In addition, as the Euston works necessary for Rail Package 2 have not been developed to the same level of detail as the HS2 proposals, further technical work would be necessary to consider whether the proposals would not also require the widening and remodelling of the station throat and the London Underground interfaces.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the date is of the earliest letter from an hon. Member concerning High Speed 2 to which he has not yet replied; [57368]

(2) how many letters he has received from hon. Members concerning High Speed 2 in each month since January 2011; [57369]

(3) what the average time taken by his Department to respond to letters from hon. Members concerning High Speed 2 was in the latest period for which figures are available; [57370]

(4) whether he has a target time for responding to letters from hon. Members concerning High Speed 2. [57371]

Mr Philip Hammond: Since May 2010 my Department has received in excess of 1,100 letters from hon. Members concerning High Speed 2. In addition my Department has responded to over 3,000 letters from the public. Because some correspondence from hon. Members addresses transport-related matters in addition to High Speed 2, it is not possible to establish an exact figure.

For the same reason it is not possible to establish the average time taken by my Department to respond to High Speed 2 letters from hon. Members. The Department's published target is to answer correspondence from hon. Members within 15 working days of receipt.

Between January and June 2011, my Department received on average in excess of 75 letters per month from hon. Members concerning High Speed 2. In June 2011 in excess of 150 letters were received.

The earliest letter from an hon. Member concerning High Speed 2 to which my Department has not replied dates from 13 June 2011.

High Speed 1

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average seat occupancy rate of all passenger rail services on the High Speed 1 rail route was in the latest period for which figures are available. [49945]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, the Office of Rail Regulation publishes timetabled train-km and passenger-km for train operating companies from National Rail Trends. This information can be found on their website, at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

The last period for which information is available is Q3 or Q4 2010-11 (different measures have different availability). This information was used to inform calculations on train utilisation made in the McNulty report. However, data from LCR were specifically excluded from the McNulty calculations and are not published. This information was used to inform calculations on train utilisation made in the McNulty study into rail value for money, copies of which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/realising-the-potential-of-gb-rail

Invalid Vehicles: Regulation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 19W, on invalid vehicles: regulation, when he plans to announce the results of his Department's consultation on proposed changes to legislation governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. [63052]

Norman Baker: I will be publishing on the Department for Transport's website a summary of the responses to the consultation, along with a statement on the way forward, this summer. The Department's full response to the consultation will be published later this year.

Large Goods Vehicles: EU Action

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of any correspondence he has received from the European Commission on the subject of increased permitted lengths for semi-trailer HGVs since 1 June 2011. [65254]

Mike Penning: I am placing in the Libraries of the House a copy of a communication from the Commission dated 1 July 2011 which invites the United Kingdom to delay implementing any regulations permitting longer semi-trailers until 2 April 2012, as it is currently considering making its own proposals on masses and dimensions of heavy goods vehicles and trailers.

Network Rail: Allowances

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much Network Rail spent on first class rail travel for staff in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [64743]

(2) how much Network Rail spent on first class air travel for staff in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [64744]

(3) how much was claimed in expenses by the chief executive of Network Rail in 2009-10; and what the category was of each such claim; [64779]

(4) how much Network Rail spent on entertaining in 2009-10. [64780]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is an independent, private sector company, so Government do not hold the information requested. I would suggest that the hon. Member writes to David Higgins, the chief executive of Network Rail, at the following address:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that Network Rail informs train operating companies of proposed rail line closures at least 12 weeks in advance. [64105]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail has an obligation in its network licence to provide this information to train operators, in most cases no later than 12 weeks before the date on which rail engineering works (which affect the national timetable) take place. The network licence is enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation in accordance with its economic enforcement policy, which states that it will concentrate on serious or systemic issues.

Rail Regulation

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has considered the merits of merging Passenger Focus with the Office of Rail Regulation. [59783]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport considered the future of Passenger Focus as part of the public bodies review and concluded that it should be retained but with substantial reforms to reduce its cost to taxpayers while maintaining its core role as the statutory independent complaints body. The Department has not formally considered the merits of merging Passenger Focus with the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and has no plans to take such a proposal forward.

Public Transport: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency plans are in place in case of strikes by transport workers during the London 2012 Olympics. [64941]

Mrs Villiers: Drawing on established well developed plans, transport operators are working in close collaboration on integrated contingency planning for the 2012 games for a wide range of possible scenarios, including industrial action. Each operator remains responsible for managing its own industrial relations.

Public Transport: Visual Impairment

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's Access for All programme in improving accessibility on public transport for visually impaired people. [64801]

Norman Baker: An independent research study into the benefits of the Access for All programme was carried out by Steer Davis Gleave Ltd in 2009 and early 2010.

The study found that 65% of visually impaired passengers were satisfied with station facilities where Access for All work had been completed, compared to only 14% at stations not in the programme. In addition, almost half of visually impaired passengers said they had increased their use of Access for All stations as a result of the work.

Railways: Toilet Facilities

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements his Department places on constructors of rail carriages in respect of the relationship between journey times and toilet facilities. [62818]

Mrs Villiers: For procurements where the Department for Transport takes a lead (such as the IEP) requirements relating to these matters are set out in the Train Technical Specifications which are on the departmental website.

In the cases where train operators procure rolling stock, it is a matter for them to define requirements which are likely to include journey time requirements and on board facilities such as toilets.

Railways: Birmingham

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the combined seat occupancy rate on passenger rail services on the main line *(a)* from London to Birmingham and *(b)* from Birmingham to London was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [49937]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, the Office of Rail Regulation publishes timetabled train-km and passenger-km for train operating companies from National Rail Trends. This information can be found on their website, at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

The last period for which information is available is Q3 or Q4 2010-11 (different measures have different availability). This information was used to inform calculations on train utilisation made in the McNulty study into rail value for money, copies of which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/realising-the-potential-of-gb-rail

Railways: Brighton

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 16 May 2011, ref AR/EOR/00391 on the division of revenue on the Brighton mainline. [64506]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* I replied to this letter on Thursday 7 July 2011.

Railways: Electrification

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to undertake any cost-benefit analysis of the electrification of the *(a)* Midland Main Line from Bedford North to Sheffield via Derby, *(b)* Sheffield to Doncaster line, *(c)* Manchester-Leeds-Colton junction line and *(d)* Northallerton to Middlesbrough line. [64110]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail assessed these electrification schemes as part of its Electrification Network Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), published in October 2009. Network Rail is currently reviewing schemes assessed under its Electrification RUS as part of its input to the Initial Industry Plan (IIP) to be published in the autumn. The IIP will be used by Government to inform its High Level Output Specification expected in the summer of 2012.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the oral statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 520-22, on the McNulty Report and West Coast Rail, what the terms of reference are for his Department's review of rail fares policy; [63980]

(2) whether he plans to consult *(a)* businesses and *(b)* employers as part of his Department's review of rail fares policy. [63981]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The fares review will be a first step towards a fairer and more effective system. In order to ensure that it addresses the right issues and is carried out effectively, Government are currently considering the terms of reference, scope and timetable for the review, including the appropriate form of consultation.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 520-22, on the McNulty Report and West Coast Rail, what discussions he has had with business representatives on existing train ticketing structures; and what measures he proposes to encourage business use of the railway network. [63982]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* Ministers have regular discussions with business representatives on a range of issues.

The Government wish to see a modern customer-focused approach to fares and ticketing structures. The forthcoming fares review will consider this, in line with the Government's vision for a rail system that supports a growing economy by improving capacity, connectivity, performance and productivity.

Railways: Fees and Charges

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Rail Penalty Fares Policy and Rules were last reviewed. [63966]

Mrs Villiers: The Penalty Fares Policy and Rules were last reviewed in 2009-10.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of travellers on long-distance passenger rail services purchased *(a)* advance fares, *(b)* flexible tickets and *(c)* season tickets in the latest period for which figures are available. [63967]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many types of rail ticket are offered by train operating companies. [63968]

Mrs Villiers: There are five ticket types available: Advance, Off-Peak, Anytime, Season, and Rovers and Rangers. Details of all these tickets types can be found here:

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/ticket_types/

Rescue Services: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the future of coastguard stations in Scotland; and what response he has made. [64660]

Mike Penning: The recent consultation on the modernisation of the coastguard prompted many responses. I continue to receive correspondence from the public and other interested parties about our plans for coastguard co-ordination centres in Scotland.

We expect to make an announcement about the way forward before the House rises for summer recess on 19 July.

Rescue Services: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of safety levels in waters off the port of Sunderland following the implementation of planned coastguard centre closures. [65285]

Mike Penning: No specific assessment of the waters off the port of Sunderland was made in the development of the proposals to modernise HM Coastguard that was published on 16 December 2010.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has assessed the risks nationally associated in relation to the coastguard's current operation and how those risks are mitigated by the modernisation proposals. On 11 February, the MCA published a suite of documents that provide a broad outline of the consideration of impact and risk in respect of the proposals. These documents are available on the MCA's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

River Thames: Bridges

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the construction of a new Thames river crossing east of Blackwall to relieve traffic on the Dartford to Thurrock crossing. [64740]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport published a report in April 2009 on the current and future capacity requirements at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing.

The Department made clear in its spending review announcement that it would embark on a review of the options for future capacity in the Lower Thames. The Department is in the process of programming this work.

Following that review, which is expected to take around 12 to 18 months to complete, the Department's intention, as part of the statutory process, would be to publicly consult on the merits of the potential options.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with National Grid on the effect on road congestion of the over-running of street works. [64109]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport holds regular discussions with the industry body the National Joint Utilities Group, of which the National Grid is a member. These discussions cover a wide range of matters, including over-running street works and the resulting impacts on congestion.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 545W, on railways: rolling stock, what additional capacity the new carriages will create *(a)* in total, *(b)* for each rail franchise and *(c)* for each new rail project. [62497]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is in the following table.

	Number of new vehicles in daily service	*Capacity (seats)*
Thameslink	1,200	174,000
Intercity Express Programme: Greater Western	[1]314	21,980
Intercity Express Programme: East Coast	[1]230	16,100
Crossrail	[1]570	85,500
West Coast	106	7,420
National Express East Anglia	120	8,400
London Midland	69	4,830
Chiltern	8	560
Transpennine Express	36	2,520

[1] Excludes fleet spares

Street Wardens

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to facilitate the introduction of generic street wardens as specified in the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [61697]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 23 June 2011]*: In the absence of a robust case for change, we have no current plans to amend either the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or our operational guidance relating to the limitations of civil enforcement officer duties. We will of course consider proposals for change if there is a well argued case to do so.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of jobs which *(a)* will be created in the UK as a result of the award of the Thameslink contract to an overseas consortium and *(b)* would have been created in the UK if the contract had been awarded to Bombardier Aerospace in Derby. [63726]

Mrs Villiers: The staffing level required to fulfil the terms of the Thameslink rolling stock contract is a matter for the train manufacturer and maintainer (TMM) to decide. Siemens Plc with Cross London Trains, the nominated preferred bidder, have stated that work on the Thameslink rolling stock contract could create up to 2,000 new jobs in the UK, including jobs in train component manufacturing, depot construction and train maintenance.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the procurement contract for the Thameslink rolling stock contract was first tendered. [64983]

Mrs Villiers: The Thameslink rolling stock invitation to tender was issued on 27 November 2008.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink Rolling Stock, when the train maintenance contract for the rolling stock will transfer from First Capital Connect to Siemens. [65024]

Mrs Villiers: Assuming successful completion of contractual negotiations, Siemens will be responsible for the maintenance of the new trains when they enter service, commencing in 2015.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink Rolling Stock, if the Siemens plc bid specified whether train maintenance for the new Thameslink rolling stock will be undertaken primarily by *(a)* existing staff or *(b)* newly recruited staff. [65026]

Mrs Villiers: The Siemens plc bid identifies the staff required for the maintenance of the new Thameslink rolling stock, and recognises that the posts may be filled by either existing First Capital Connect staff or by newly recruited staff, and that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations may be relevant to existing First Capital Connect staff.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions were produced by *(a)* aviation flights and *(b)* rail services in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [64888]

Mrs Villiers: The carbon dioxide emissions for railways, domestic aviation and international aviation in each of the last five years for which data are available are given in the following table:

Carbon dioxide

Million tonnes

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Railways	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Domestic aviation	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.9
International aviation	35.1	35.6	35.4	34.2	32.7

Source:
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 12 July 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what uses his Department has made of the annual survey of hours and earnings data produced by the Office for National Statistics in the last three years. [65288]

Robert Neill: The main use of the annual survey of hours and earnings by the Department is for area cost adjustments in the allocation of Formula Grant. It has also been used in analysis of socio-economic conditions such as housing affordability, labour market mobility and costs, and as input to impact assessments.

Broadband: Planning Permission

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to refuse planning approval for the erection of broadband cabinets. [65104]

Robert Neill: Broadband cabinets have permitted development rights under part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order, which means that many can be installed without the need to apply for planning permission. This permitted development right is, however, subject to a prior approval process which allows planning authorities to consider the siting and appearance of any cabinet before development commences. If they consider it appropriate, approval may be refused on these grounds.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has had discussions with British Telecom on agreeing a code of conduct on the siting of broadband cabinets; and if he will make a statement. [65105]

Robert Neill: No such discussions have been held.

The Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 set general conditions for British Telecom and other code operators. This includes the need for code operators to minimise as far as reasonably practicable impacts on the visual amenity of properties when installing electronic communications apparatus.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62730]

Robert Neill: Under a centrally approved Government agreement, the Department has an overarching contract with Capita Resourcing Ltd to supply interim management and specialist contractor staff on a call off basis. The majority of the contract value shown in the following below is paid to the contractor, with a margin retained by Capita which can range from 3.5% to 7.25%. The following appointments have been made under the contract since May 2010.

Job title	*Capital original contract start date*	*Contract value total (exc VAT) (£)*
Local Government Accountancy Adviser	21 June 2011	47,104.20
Housing Reform Accounting Adviser	20 June 2011	8,043.75
Internal Audit Service European Auditor	31 May 2011	32,304.96
Regional Development Agency Transition Accountant	16 May 2011	38,416.00
Deputy IT Director	9 May 2011	33,462.00
Internal Audit Service European Auditor	9 May 2011	45,829.80
Internal Audit Service European Auditor	9 May 2011	38,191.50
Internal Audit Service European Auditor	9 May 2011	32,472.00
Regional Development Agency Transition Accountant	19 April 2011	44,296.00
Regional Development Agency Transition Accountant	19 April 2011	44,296.00
Management Accountant European Regional Development Fund Closure	13 December 2010	49,590.00
Human Resources Support Firebuy	8 November 2010	3,861.00
Environmental Impact Assessor and Land Rights Adviser	6 September 2010	18,775.80
Senior Environmental Impact Assessor and Land Rights Advisor	31 August 2010	24,621.66
Environmental Impact Assessor and Land Rights Adviser	2 August 2010	20,987.88
Territorial Facilitators	26 July 2010	48,936.66
Security and Information Manager	26 July 2010	18,759.72
Livelink Administration Support	19 July 2010	49,862.53
Senior Environmental Impact Assessor and Land Rights Adviser	19 July 2010	18,759.72
Territorial Facilitators	5 July 2010	42,978.00
Private Finance Initiative Transactor	8 June 2010	2,846.25
Territorial Facilitators	1 June 2010	47,154.00
European Auditor	10 May2010	13,786.20
Total value of new interim contracts since May 2010		725,335.63

Caravan Sites: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unauthorised encampments were established in Salford and Eccles in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [64963]

Andrew Stunell: According to the 'Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans' undertaken bi-annually by local authorities in England including Salford Metropolitan borough council and collated by my Department, there were no unauthorised encampments in Salford and Eccles on the dates of the count in January and July 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to promote user involvement in the design of services following the revocation of the statutory guidance, Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities. [64249]

Robert Neill: "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities" was prescriptive around how local authorities should agree their priorities, engage their citizens, lead their communities and commission public services. Revocation of this guidance and associated duties enables local authorities to innovate and work in new ways to serve their local communities.

We want to encourage authorities and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary groups in the design and running of public services. In this context, we recently consulted on light touch statutory guidance on the best value duty setting out some reasonable expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions. The consultation closed on 14 June and we expect to provide a government response and publish final guidance this summer.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions officials in his Department have been subject to formal disciplinary proceedings since May 2010. [56228]

Robert Neill: 21 separate proceedings were undertaken during the last 12 months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64437]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold comprehensive records of whether requests for meetings made by hon. Members have been declined, and to assemble this information would involve disproportionate cost. However, my ministerial colleagues and I are always happy to consider any request made by any hon. Member for a meeting on departmental business.

Fire Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations there were in *(a)* York, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England at 1 May (i) 1997, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [65952]

Robert Neill: Numbers of fire stations are held centrally only at fire and rescue authority level.

Accordingly, the number of fire stations by each fire and rescue authority in Yorkshire and the Humber and in England are shown in the table for 1997 and 2010.

Data for York are not held centrally. Figures for 2011 are due for publication by September 2011.

Number of fire stations in Yorkshire and the Humber and in England at 31 March 1997 and 2010

Fire and rescue authority	*1997*	*2010*
Humberside	31	30
North Yorkshire	37	39
South Yorkshire	24	23
West Yorkshire	50	48
Yorkshire and the Humber	142	140
England[1]	1,444	1,448

[1] Excluding the Isles of Scilly.

Source:
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by how much the delegated expenditure limit of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions changed in 2001-02 as a result of changes to the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Scheme; [65218]

(2) how much Annually Managed Expenditure for major repairs in the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions and its successors charged as a result of changes to the Housing Revenue Account subsidy scheme in each year since 2001-02; [65219]

(3) by how much the Departmental Expenditure Limit of the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions was adjusted as a result of changes to the Housing Revenue Account in England in 2001-02; by how much that department's annually managed expenditure was increased as a result of the introduction of the Major Repairs Allowance; and what the budget lines were in each respect in each subsequent year for which figures are available. [65291]

Andrew Stunell: The 2000 spending review determined that in 2001-02 £1.6 billion would be transferred from Credit Approvals, classified as Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit to Housing Revenue Account subsidy, classified as Annually Managed Expenditure, to finance the new Major Repairs Allowance.

The following table gives totals for the amounts of Major Repairs Allowance paid by year from 2002-03 to 2009-10, the latest audited figures available. We do not have equivalent figures for any change in Departmental Expenditure Limit to accommodate the allowance in these years.

Annual managed expenditure

	Major repairs allowance
2002-03	1,528,961,056
2003-04	1,455,753,376
2004-05	1,402,024,575
2005-06	1,353,498,281
2006-07	1,307,534,539
2007-08	1,249,478,557
2008-09	1,240,045,822
2009-10	1,245,696,591

Notes:

1. Data taken from the 4th Housing Revenue Account subsidy claim form, excluding those below the audit threshold of £125,000

2. Number of dwellings in 2002-03: 2,699,147; number of dwellings in 2009-10: 1,699,578.

3. Major Repairs Allowance is paid as part of Housing Revenue Account, which is an Annual Managed Expenditure programme.

Housing: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has any plans for future housing development in south east Dorset. [64829]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* This Government have put in place a raft of measures to get house-building moving again. In addition to putting in place fiscal incentives for local authorities to develop housing, in the form of the New Homes Bonus and the reformed Community Infrastructure Levy, the Government are also accelerating the release of public sector land, investing £4.5 billion to help deliver over 150,000 new affordable homes and, together with house-builders, providing around £400 million for the new First Buy scheme, which will help nearly 10,500 first time buyers to buy a new build property over the next two years. While introducing incentives we are also abolishing top-down Regional Strategies through the Localism Bill. Together, this package of measures will enable people in all areas of the country, including south east Dorset, to support and shape future housing development.

Housing: Employment

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the possible effects of his proposed reforms to social housing on future levels of employment in the social housing sector in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England and Wales. [65519]

Grant Shapps: The Government's investment and reform will deliver more new affordable housing and therefore support jobs in construction and related industries.

We are investing £4.5 billion to deliver up to 150, 000 new affordable homes. The Affordable Rent impact assessment, published June 2011:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/rentimpactassessment

shows the number of jobs that could be supported, in England, under a range of scenarios. The impact assessment does not include estimates of the distribution of these jobs at a local level, as this will depend upon the eventual allocation of funding to providers.

Since the completion of this impact assessment, the Homes and Communities Agency has received offers for funding from providers that have exceeded our original expectations, and we are confident that we are on track to deliver up to 150, 000 new affordable homes.

Housing: Parking

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of proposals in the Localism Bill on planning restrictions for car parking spaces on new housing developments. [64790]

Robert Neill: Planning policy on car parking spaces is set out in Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (PPG13). This was updated on 3 January 2011 to remove the requirement for local planning authorities to impose maximum parking standards for new residential developments. The Government will consult in July 2011 on the National Planning Policy Framework, which will include updated policies on transport. When the Framework is adopted it will replace current Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance, including PPG13.

The Localism Bill introduces new powers for neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood plans can contain a wide range of policies, including potentially on parking. All neighbourhood plans will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies set out in the Local Plan and will also need to be appropriate having regard to national policy.

Leasehold: Fees and Charges

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has to require all charges on leaseholders to be transparent; [65172]

(2) what plans he has to review the law relating to leasehold tenure. [65173]

Andrew Stunell: The Government recognise that where problems arise over leaseholders' homes—especially about the actions of managing agents—these can cause real inconvenience and, in some cases, lead to significant distress. The law therefore provides leaseholders with a wide range of rights in order to avoid these disputes or, where they arise, to enable them to be resolved. These include the right to ask for service charge information and to see supporting documentation.

The Government also recognise the need to strike the right balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and leaseholders, and expect landlords and managing agents to obey the law and act in a socially-responsible manner. As with all regulation, state intervention should be proportionate.

Some leaseholders may find it stressful and burdensome to take a case against their landlord to a court, or even to a less formal leasehold valuation tribunal. It may be that the current processes could work more effectively or leaseholders could receive more help in exercising their rights.

While the Government currently have no plans for a wide ranging review of leasehold law, they will keep a close watching brief and will not rule out making other changes.

Local Government Finance: Reviews

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will seek to have regard to the principles of fairness, equity and need in his forthcoming proposals for the review of local government finance. [64854]

Robert Neill: The resource review will publish shortly its proposals on the retention of business rates by local authorities. The Government have been clear that any proposals will ensure that all councils will have adequate resources to meet the needs of their local community. Councils which are more deprived will continue to receive central Government support.

Local Government Finance: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much general revenue funding has been allocated to the City of York council for services other than education in each year since 2007-08 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [65607]

Robert Neill: The central Government revenue funding allocated to City of York council for services other than education in each year since 2007-08 in cash and real terms based on 2009-10 prices is tabled as follows:

£000

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cash	240,489	251,744	261,089
Real terms	251,167	255,843	261,089

Source:
Department for Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

The definition of central Government revenue funding used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates), area-based grant and specific grants inside aggregate external finance i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside aggregate external finance (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

It also excludes Dedicated Schools Grant a ring-fenced specific grant for education service. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant and area-based grant and certain specific grants are unring-fenced. Therefore it is possible for local authorities to spend these grants on any services including education.

The 2009-10 real terms figures are calculated using the HM Treasury's latest available GDP deflators.

Local Government: Accountability

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for user involvement in the design of services following the repeal of the duty to involve. [64250]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has announced his intention to repeal the duty to involve. Repeal requires primary legislation; therefore until it is repealed via legislation, it remains a duty.

The plan to repeal the duty is in line with the Government's commitment to freeing up local authorities to innovate and work in new ways to serve their local communities. Central Government should not be prescribing how local government engages with local people.

We want to encourage authorities and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary groups in the design and running of public services. In this context, we recently consulted on light touch statutory guidance on the Best Value duty setting out some reasonable expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions. The consultation closed on 14 June and we expect to provide a Government response and publish final guidance this summer.

An equality impact assessment initial screening

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueequalities

was carried out on a package of decentralisation measures including the repeal of the duty to involve. The screening showed that new best value guidance will balance out any possible equality impacts arising from the loss of the duty since it supplements the existing duty to consult under best value and underlines support for voluntary and community sector organisations. It will strengthen the role of voluntary and community sector groups in terms of engagement, funding and potentially running public services. It will also give greater freedom to councils to respond to local rather than central priorities and expand the scope of councils to collaborate with small businesses and voluntary and community sector organisations.

Once the duty to involve is repealed, the separate duty to consult local representatives (which supports the duty of best value) will remain in place. This will be backed up by the additional support for voluntary and community groups in the best value guidance.

In addition, the new duties contained in the Localism Bill (i.e. the Community Rights to Challenge and Buy) aim to have a greater impact on links between councils and communities.

Local Government: Pay

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities *(a)* have and *(b)* have not implemented a pay rise for those earning less than £21,000 per annum in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [64663]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally. While the Government's overall policy on public sector pay sets the context in which decisions about pay are taken locally by councils, Government have no role in determining annual pay awards in local authorities. These are for the employers and unions to negotiate whether locally, or within the framework of the relevant National Joint Committee.

Mayors

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with leaders of local authorities in cities where he proposes to introduce shadow mayors prior to mayoral elections. [65712]

Robert Neill: We do not propose to introduce shadow mayors. The committee in the other place considering the Localism Bill agreed on 23 June amendments, supported by the Government, which remove all provision for shadow mayors from the Bill.

National Planning Policy Framework

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the National Planning Policy Framework. [65574]

Robert Neill: The National Planning Policy Framework will be published this month.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the National Planning Policy Framework's proposed presumption in favour of sustainable development will permit development on the greenbelt in respect of *(a)* community buildings including schools, *(b)* commercial development, *(c)* affordable housing and *(d)* any other type of development; [65798]

(2) what arrangements are in place to protect greenbelt land from development as part of the National Planning Policy Framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development. [65799]

Robert Neill: The coalition agreement explicitly states that we will maintain green belt protection. The green belt has a valuable role in stopping urban sprawl and providing a green lung around towns and cities.

Indeed, our proposed abolition of the unpopular regional strategies through the Localism Bill will stop the top-down pressure to remove the green belt in 30 areas across England.

The presumption in favour of sustainable development requires councils to plan positively for the needs of each area, while safeguarding those things that require protection. Where plans are not in place or up-to-date, it makes clear that development should be allowed unless this would compromise the key principles for sustainability in the National Planning Policy Framework, including protection of the green belt.

Non-domestic Rates

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that Liverpool city council does not receive a reduction in business rate grant as a result of his proposed changes to local government finance. [65760]

Robert Neill: The Resource Review will publish shortly its proposals on the retention of business rates by local authorities. The Government have been clear that any proposals will ensure that all councils will have adequate resources to meet the needs of their local community.

As the Deputy Prime Minister recently said to the Local Government Association's annual conference, no local authority will receive less funding when the new arrangements are introduced than they would have done under the previous funding system.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* fire and *(b)* local authorities are net (i) contributors to and (ii) recipients from the collection and allocation of business rates. [64695]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Louise Mensch) on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had with business organisations on his proposal for local authorities to retain business rates. [64799]

Robert Neill: An important part of the Local Government Resource Review has been extensive engagement with key partners to help inform our work.

The Department has had regular discussions with business organisations on the issues raised by the review's consideration of local retention of business rates. In addition to bilateral discussions, the Department has held a number of working group meetings of business representative bodies.

We will be publishing our proposals for consultation shortly.

Playing Fields: Wandsworth

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue a temporary designation for Barn Elms playing fields under the Green Areas Designation initiative. [64662]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1000-1001W, to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Road Traffic: Planning

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has given to Planning Inspectors about the judgments they should make in relation to the effects on levels of *(a)* traffic congestion and *(b)* pollution in relation to new developments. [65583]

Robert Neill: When considering called-in or recovered planning applications or appeals the standard guidance used by inspectors when making judgments concerning the effects of traffic congestion and pollution in relation to new developments is as follows:

Traffic congestion—PPG13: Transport (ODPM, March 2001); Manual for Streets (DCLG/DfT, March 2007); Manual for Streets 2 (CIHT and endorsed by DfT/DCLG, September 2010); and Good Practice Guidelines: Delivering Travel Plans through the Planning Process (CLG/DfT, April 2009).

Pollution—PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM, November 2004); and PPG24: Planning and Noise (DoE, September 1994).

We will consider how to take forward these issues in the forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework.

Social Rented Housing

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much social housing for rent was built in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and how much social housing in each area he expects to be built in each future year for which projections have been made. [65603]

Andrew Stunell: Figures on additional affordable housing at national and local level for 1991-92 to 2009-10 are published by on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Live Table 1006 shows the number of social rented homes provided in each area, including acquired and newly built homes.

We are investing nearly £4.5 billion to help deliver 150,000 new affordable homes between 2011-12 and 2014-15. The majority of the homes delivered will be made available as affordable rent with some for affordable home ownership. The Department does not forecast local levels of future house building.

Social Rented Housing: Pensioners

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of pensioners living in the social housing sector in Sunderland Central constituency. [65225]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not hold this information.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in service charges for tenants in social housing was *(a)* overall and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years. [64875]

Andrew Stunell: The social housing regulator, the Tenant Services Authority, collects this information for private registered providers of social housing as part of its annual regulatory and statistical return, based on its regional analysis. This is set out as follows:

General needs housing

Percentage

	2010	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
London	4.5	8.9	8.9	6.8	1.1
South East	(0.6)	7.4	6.4	2.7	(11.7)
South West	9.1	2.8	5.8	1.8	(5.6)
East Midlands	7.1	13.9	1.2	10.9	(9.4)
East of England	9.9	4.4	4.3	6.3	(10.5)
West Midlands	7.9	15.1	7.0	(0.3)	(10.9)
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.4	8.3	7.5	8.1	(14.1)
North East	7.9	2.4	(6.3)	14.0	(26.2)
North West	9.3	10.8	5.0	5.0	(23.7)
England	5.5	8.7	6.4	4.4	(9.9)

Supported housing[1]

Percentage

	2010	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*[1]
London	4.1	9.2	3.0	11.7	n/a
South East	11.4	8.8	3.4	5.5	n/a
South West	7.6	6.8	6.1	8.6	n/a
East Midlands	4.1	9.7	9.3	16.0	n/a
East of England	8.5	7.8	2.1	7.4	n/a
West Midlands	18.6	4.0	5.0	9.3	n/a
Yorkshire and the Humber	8.8	15.6	7.1	5.8	n/a
North East	21.1	9.4	(8.2)	5.1	n/a
North West	10.5	2.8	8.2	7.3	n/a
England	9.8	7.7	4.4	7.6	n/a

[1] Figures not available before 2005-06.

Note:

There is no equivalent information collected for local authority social housing.

Taxation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of tax increment financing. [64782]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Resource Review is developing proposals to allow councils to retain their locally-raised business rates. We will also introduce tax increment financing powers, allowing councils to fund key infrastructure projects by borrowing against future increases in business rates.

We will be consulting on proposals shortly. Tax increment financing and the retention of business rates will be introduced through the forthcoming Local Government Finance Bill.

WALES

Departmental Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many regulations her Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65311]

(2) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses her Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65328]

(3) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses her Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect was on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals. [65344]

Mr David Jones: The Government's policy is to consider alternative to regulation. A list of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64420]

Mr David Jones: We are not aware of any requests from an hon. Member having been refused. The Secretary of State for Wales, and I are always happy to discuss matters of importance to Wales with hon. Members of all political parties.

Social Services: Finance

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the Dilnot Commission Report and its implications for Wales. [64860]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, and I have discussed the work of the Dilnot Commission with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health.

The Government will consider the Commission's recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support for all adults in England. The Department of Health will be producing a White Paper on wider social care issues next spring, and a progress report on the funding reform.

We will work constructively with the Welsh Government on any aspects of the proposals which have implications for delivery of care and support in Wales.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has for the provision of direct payments to farms under the common agricultural policy from 2013. [63906]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Government want to see a greater focus on measures to improve competitiveness across the EU, so as to progressively reduce the reliance of EU farming on subsidy. While direct payments will continue during the next financial perspective, there should be a clear downward trajectory and a programme of managed transition planning for their abolition.

Dairy Products: Meat

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has to reduce waste in *(a)* dairy supply chains and *(b)* red meat supply chains. [64815]

Mr Paice: The Government are working closely with the livestock industry on its product roadmaps. They are good examples of what can be achieved by bringing producers, processers and retailers together to commit themselves to more sustainable operation. The recently published Dairy Roadmap sets targets for waste recycling and recovery for both farmers and processers, and on amounts of recyclate used in packaging for retailers. Part two of The English Beef and Sheep Production Roadmap also looks at waste and efficiency issues through supply chains, extending the work begun on greenhouse gases in part one. While April's publication of the English Pig Meat Roadmap highlights the importance of animal health and carcase utilisation issues in avoiding waste in that sector. The Roadmaps can be found at:

http://www.dairyco.net/library/research-development/environment/dairy-roadmap.aspx

http://www.eblex.org.uk/publications/corporate.aspx

http://www.bpex.org.uk/Article.aspx?ID=301329

Additionally the Waste Resource Action programme (WRAP) carries out a range of activities to encourage the prevention of waste. These include:

The provision of online tools and case studies;

The facilitation of agreements to reduce waste from their products; for example, the Courtauld Commitment which concerns the reduction of packaging waste in the grocery sector.

Eggs: Imports

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect on the egg industry of imports of *(a)* egg products manufactured from shell eggs produced in systems in EU member states which do not comply with EU directives and *(b)* egg products manufactured from eggs produced in conventional cage production systems outside the EU. [63041]

Mr Paice: The Government are totally committed to the 2012 deadline to have phased out the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages in the UK.

From 1 January 2012 it will be illegal to market eggs in this country from hens still in conventional cages.

We are not able unilaterally to prevent egg products produced from eggs in conventional cages being imported from third countries. World Trade Organisation rules do not allow members to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applied in third countries.

We have, however, been at the forefront of efforts to convince the Commission that simply relying on infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states will not be enough to deal with the negative impact that non-compliance would cause and that additional measures would need to be put in place to prevent market disturbance and to protect compliant producers. We will continue to keep up the pressure on the Commission to act and act quickly.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether genetically modified potatoes have been planted under application reference 10/R29/01 in 2011. [63983]

Mr Paice: The Sainsbury Laboratory planted potatoes under this consent in 2011 at the same site as the 2010 planting.

Hill Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of former recipients of hill farm allowance are *(a)* participating in uplands entry level stewardship and *(b)* in receipt of the uplands transitional payment. [62125]

Mr Paice: An initial analysis of uptake suggests that by mid-January 2011, *(a)* 36% of HFA 2010 recipients had a live uplands entry level stewardship (Uplands ELS) agreement; and *(b)* 30% of HFA 2010 recipients had valid claims for the 2011 uplands transitional payment (UTP).

A further analysis will be undertaken once a full year's uplands ELS uptake data are available in July, these will give a fuller picture of the percentage of former HFA claimants participating in either UTP or uplands ELS. It is expected that this will show a further increase in the proportion of HFA 2010 recipients with a live uplands ELS agreement: between mid-January and mid-June, the number of live uplands ELS agreements increased by 29%.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65313]

David Mundell: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010 the Scotland Office introduced two regulations that did not impose costs on business. These were:

The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2010;

The Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (Disclosure of Information) Order.

In the six months after 1 September 2010 the Scotland Office introduced five regulations that did not impose costs on business. These were:

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2010;

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2010;

The Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2010;

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010;

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65330]

David Mundell: Since 1 September 2010 the Scotland Office has not introduced or removed any regulations that impose costs on businesses.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65347]

David Mundell: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010 the Scotland Office did not introduce or remove any regulations that imposed costs on businesses.

Directors: Females

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Minister for Women and Equalities and *(b)* Scottish Ministers about measures that could be taken to encourage increased employment of women at boardroom level in Scottish companies. [65489]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, on a range of issues relating to Scotland. The Scottish Government have their own Gender Equality Scheme.

Railways

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 891W, on high speed rail, what the outcome was of his discussions with Scottish Ministers on the extension of high speed rail services to Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [65174]

Michael Moore: Both I and the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, have encouraged Scottish Ministers to share their views and those of relevant Scottish Stakeholders in the Department for Transport's high speed rail public consultation process which is currently ongoing.

Social Security Benefits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities regarding the impact in Scotland of the proposed benefits cap. [65490]

Michael Moore: I have regular conversations with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, where we have discussed many issues including the impact on Scotland of the proposed benefits cap.

My most recent meeting with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) was in June of this year and I will be meeting with CoSLA again in October where we will have the opportunity to discuss the impact of the benefits cap in Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Air Ambulance Services: Fuels

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on an exemption from value added tax for fuel for the Air Ambulance for Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [65151]

Mr Paterson: Tax policy including value added tax is the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons Commission has any plans to generate low-carbon energy on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate. [65409]

John Thurso: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate (PED) continues to investigate the potential for both low and zero carbon generation on the parliamentary estate to help deliver the House's target for reducing carbon emissions from energy use.

There are two areas where there are plans to introduce low carbon generation. The PED is developing options for the re-commissioning of the existing combined heat and power plant on the northern estate, and it is also reviewing options and benefits of installing tri-generation (combined heating, cooling and power) as part of the long-term vision for mechanical and electrical services within the palace.

Under the medium-term Mechanical and Electrical Project measures are already being implemented to reduce the carbon footprint from energy use, for instance by improving the efficiency of chilled water systems. The project team is also looking at options for zero carbon energy generation such as providing infrastructure for solar thermal and/or photovoltaic generators located on the roof. The potential for a variety of other renewable energy sources, including wind and tidal energy, has been considered as part of the project There are significant planning constraints on a world heritage site, but the project team will continue to explore the feasibility of these technologies, and the infrastructure provided as part of this project will be capable of adaptation to cater for other systems which may be found suitable for heritage estates and become more economically attractive in future years.

The feasibility of realising further carbon savings by utilising the Whitehall/Pimlico district heating scheme which provides carbon-neutral heat energy is also being examined.

Members: Postage Stamps

Mr Brine: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the public purse was of collection of unpaid postage for mail sent to hon. Members in each of the last five years. [64704]

John Thurso: The cost to the public purse for the collection of unpaid postage for items sent to Members and departments in the House of Commons is as follows:

	£
2009	10,184.53
2010	10,614.01
2011 (January to end June)	6,493.07

No data are held on costs before 2009. No information is held on the split of unpaid postage costs between items sent to Members and those sent to departments of the House although the vast majority is on Members' items.

Schools: Visits

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many school parties from *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Newton Abbot constituency have visited the Palace of Westminster through the Parliamentary Education Service in each year since 2009. [62962]

John Thurso: The number of schools from *(a)* Devon and *(b)* the Newton Abbot constituency that have visited the Palace of Westminster through Parliament's Education Service in each year since 2009 is as follows:

	Devon	*Newton Abbot*
2009[1]	18	[1]5
2010	10	2
2011 (to date)	10	2
2011 (future bookings)	8	1

[1] The Newton Abbot constituency was newly created in 2010. The figure for 2009 relates to the former Teignbridge constituency.

The total number of students visiting the Palace of Westminster on these visits, including future bookings for 2011, is 1,634; of these, 381 are from the Newton Abbot constituency.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General how many officials in the Law Officers' Departments were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from those Departments' staff appraisal systems in each of the last three years. [64694]

The Solicitor-General: One Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) employee was dismissed in 2010 and one employee was dismissed in 2011 as a result of poor performance. These employees were dismissed under the Department's managing poor performance policy, which contains a formal procedure informed by but distinct from the Department's staff appraisal system. A further 37 dismissals since April 2009 were for unsatisfactory attendance and misconduct. The CPS does not hold data on the specific reasons for the dismissals of staff prior to April 2009.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department dismissed four people for poor performance in 2008-09, three people in 2009-10, and one person in 2010-11.

There have been no dismissals for underperformance at the Serious Fraud Office, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and the Attorney-General's Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Abortion: Advertising

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* Members of the House of Lords against television advertisements for abortion services since January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [64644]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has received 576 representations from members of the public on this matter since 1 January 2011 and one representation from an hon. Member, on behalf of a constituent. No representations from Members of the House of Lords have been received.

Active Places Scheme

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the renaming of the Active Places scheme; and if he will make a statement. [64215]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has not taken part in any discussions about the renaming of Active Places.

Broadband: Alyn and Deeside

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on the timescale for the introduction of superfast broadband internet access in existing areas of poor access in Alyn and Deeside constituency. [65061]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are supporting the Welsh Government to deliver superfast broadband to 90% of all premises in Wales by 2015.

Broadband: Public Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse in each region of the provision of broadband to rural areas in each year of this programme. [64440]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have made available £530 million to stimulate commercial investment in broadband infrastructure and to help deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015. A full list of allocations by location will be published later this month. The allocations will provide clarity for local procuring authorities on the cost of delivering superfast broadband to 90% of all premises and a fibre connection to virtually every community and a minimum of 2 Mbps to every premise and, will also indicate the gap in funding required to meet these objectives.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the delivery of broadband to rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [64441]

Mr Vaizey: The Government published Britain's Superfast Broadband Future in December 2010, which sets out the Government's plans for delivering superfast broadband in rural areas, a copy can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7829.aspx

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64434]

John Penrose: This Department does not keep a record of meetings declined by its Ministers or departmental officials.

Mobile Phones: Radio Frequencies

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the introduction of a *(a)* 98 per cent. and *(b)* 99 per cent. coverage obligation for the forthcoming auction of 4G spectrum licences; [65062]

(2) what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on introducing a *(a)* 98 per cent. and *(b)* 99 per cent. coverage obligation in the forthcoming auction of 4G spectrum licences; [65063]

(3) what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the application of the 4G population coverage obligation to each nation of the UK; and if he will make a statement; [65064]

(4) what consideration he has given to ensuring that the availability of 4G services in Wales is similar to the availability of such services in England; and what discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on this matter. [65065]

Mr Vaizey: Following the Direction to Ofcom in December 2010, I have not discussed coverage obligations with Ofcom or the devolved Administrations. The design of the auction is a matter for Ofcom, including coverage obligations and in Ofcom's recent consultation they sought evidence to support a higher coverage obligation than the proposed 95% level.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to ensure that 4G wireless broadband minimum target speeds of at least two megabits per second will be available to consumers who are not to be offered superfast broadband under Ofcom's current Spectrum criteria. [65066]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom's current coverage proposal for the combined auction includes providing a service of not less than 2 Mbps to an area where 95% of the population lives. It is the Government's stated aim to ensure that broadband for all would be available at 2 megabits per second by 2015. We have not specified which technologies would deliver that, as it is likely that a mix of different technologies including fixed, wireless broadband (both 3G and 4G) and satellite solutions will be required, with the precise mix depending on local factors such as topography and demographics.

Olympic Games 2012

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings he has had with the Mayor of London to discuss the economic legacy for east London of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [65657]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has regular meetings with the Mayor of London on matters connected with London 2012 and its legacy. The Mayor is responsible for the legacy for East London which is why government is legislating to enable him to set up a Mayoral Development Corporation to drive the regeneration of the area and its economic legacy post-games.

Public Lending Right

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from implementation of his plans for the future management of the Public Lending Right. [64314]

Mr Vaizey: The level of savings arising from implementation of changes to the management of the Public Lending Right (PLR) depends on decisions made by the body that takes over the PLR functions. We are working to resolve as quickly as possible the issues associated with the transfer of functions.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future administration of the Public Lending Right. [65210]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government recognise the importance of the Public Lending Right (PLR) to authors. We have made assurances that PLR payments will still be administered by a body operating at arm's length from Government and with the same independence and impartiality currently awarded to the PLR Registrar. We are working to resolve as quickly as possible the issues associated with the transfer of the Public Lending Right's functions to another body.

Radio Frequencies

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the potential income from the auction of 800 MHz spectrum with coverage targets of *(a)* 95% and *(b)* 100%. [64397]

Mr Vaizey: No assessment has been made of the potential income from the auction of 800 MHz spectrum with either coverage obligation.

Sports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many individuals have registered for the Shift into Sport programme; and how many of those registered have attended and paid for a session. [64216]

Hugh Robertson: The Department does not hold this information. Shift into Sports is an initiative provided by the Fitness Industry Association (HA).

Tourism

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support the development of the tourism economy in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England. [64968]

John Penrose: The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Over the next four years VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme, which will capitalise on the international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's diamond jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic Games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme aims to attract 4 million extra visitors, spending £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, funded by the public and private sector.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is co-ordinated through the National Strategic Framework for Tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector. VisitEngland is currently working with destinations across the country, including Liverpool, on a campaign to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation. 'The time to be in England' initiative will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, including the Queen's diamond jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, helping to spread the benefits of the Games outside London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth. The campaign is the subject of a bid to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

Tourism policy seeks to help improve the sector's productivity and competitiveness, in particular, to address the burden of regulation affecting the industry. The Government's Red Tape Challenge focused on the hospitality sector in May, inviting the industry and the public to identify regulations holding back the industry and stifling growth. Alongside this, the Government have set up an industry task force, led by senior industry figures, to identify rules, regulations and inspections impeding the sector, and which might be cut, modified or abolished.

TRANSPORT

A120: Accidents

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish a table setting out the number of road traffic accidents recorded on the A120 at the junction with Little Bentley Road and Little Bromley Road in each of the last 10 years, indicating the number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* non-fatal injuries; what safety assessment has been made of the road junction; and what steps his Department is considering to improve the safety of the junction. [65358]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* All accidents involving a personal injury are recorded. The following table shows validated figures for all fatal and non-fatal injuries for the A120, at the junctions with Little Bentley Road and Little Bromley Road, in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

	Fatal	*Non-fatal*	*Total*
2009[1]	1	3	4
2008	1	0	1
2007	0	2	2
2006	0	2	2
2005	0	3	3

[1] Validated data are only available up to 31 December 2009.

The Highways Agency has a comprehensive process for monitoring safety on the A120. This includes but is not limited to, a rolling three year accident analysis for each route, weekly safety inspections, fatal accident reviews and various asset condition surveys.

The Highways Agency has developed a number of options, both long and short term to reduce the number of accidents at these junctions. The Agency is currently reviewing its capital programme in response to the spending review, to identify if a short term option can be delivered this financial year.

Airports

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 399W, on airports, what definition of connecting traffic his Department employs when seeking to define a hub airport; [65276]

(2) what definition his Department employs of the term main base in the context of a hub airport. [65277]

Mrs Villiers: There is no single widely agreed definition of a hub airport. The Department has not sought to provide a precise definition of a hub airport. However, as part of the process of developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation, the Department for Transport published a scoping document in March 2011 which provides the following broad definition:

> "A hub airport is used by airlines as the main base for connecting traffic where a significant proportion of passengers transfer between flights."

From the perspective of an airline, a main base for connecting traffic refers to an airport where the airline serves a high number of transfer passengers—that is passengers connecting directly between an inbound and an outbound flight—compared to other airports at which it operates.

Biggin Hill Airport

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the potential role of Biggin Hill airport in the regional aviation strategy for the south-east; [62932]

(2) if he will assess the effects of the operations of Biggin Hill airport on the Government's objectives for increasing the number of passengers using public transport. [62933]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to creating a sustainable framework for UK aviation. In March 2011, we published a scoping document seeking stakeholders' views and evidence on a range of strategic aviation issues, including making better use of existing airport capacity across the UK. We will assess the potential benefits and impacts of proposals as we develop the new policy framework which we will publish for consultation next year.

Bus Services: Parliament Square

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ask Transport for London when it intends to restore the bus stop outside 2 Parliament street, Westminster. [61895]

Mrs Villiers: Under devolution, Transport for London, and ultimately the Mayor of London, are responsible for deciding transport priorities in London including the management of the bus network.

Codsall Railway Station: Parking

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to improve car parking facilities at Codsall railway station. [64745]

Norman Baker: I understand that neither train operating company which serves the station has plans to improve car parking facilities at Codsall railway station.

Cycling: Helmets

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of deaths which were prevented by cyclists wearing helmets in each of the last three years. [63040]

Mike Penning: We have not produced an estimate of the number of deaths prevented by cyclists wearing helmets in each of the last three years. However, research undertaken in 2009 by the Transport Research Laboratory for the Department for Transport included a biomechanical assessment of over 100 police forensic reports on cyclist fatalities and estimated that 10% to 16% of the fatalities could have been prevented if the cyclist had worn an appropriate cycle helmet. The research report 'The Potential for Cycle Helmets to Prevent Injury: A Review of the Evidence' is available to download for free from:

www.trl.co.uk

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Dartford-Thurrock crossing protocol was not invoked and the tolls lifted on 1 July at 1pm. [64357]

Mike Penning: The resulting traffic conditions on 1 July, following a small vehicle fire that closed two of the four lanes of the Dartford Crossing Bridge for an hour, did not meet the specified criteria for severe congestion set out in the operational protocol being trialled by the Highways Agency. The Road User Charge was therefore not suspended.

The Highways Agency will continue to assess the traffic conditions that occur as a result of all significant incidents on a case-by-case basis, against the criteria for severe congestion, during the six-month trial of the operational protocol, to evaluate its effectiveness in dealing with such circumstances.

Driving Offences: Foreign Nationals

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has undertaken an assessment of the effects on road safety of introducing a power to issue on-the-spot fines to the drivers of foreign vehicles that break UK traffic laws. [65267]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been undertaken on the effects of road safety since the introduction of on-the-spot fines to the drivers of foreign vehicles that break UK traffic laws.

However, we believe that the financial penalty deposit requirement (on the spot fines) provides an effective enforcement mechanism to deal with non-UK resident offenders who do not comply with GB road traffic rules. It has helped to alleviate a public concern about the variation in enforcement against UK and non-UK resident hauliers and we have seen a reduction in personal injury collisions involving foreign HGVs, although it is too early to establish any direct and significant link with the deposit scheme.

East Coast Railway Line: Industrial Disputes

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* full and *(b)* partial days of industrial action there have been on the East Coast Main Line since 2005. [65235]

Norman Baker: There have been no incidents of industrial action within the east coast franchise since 2005 that have caused cessation of train services on the route.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60700]

Mrs Villiers: The stock of EU legislation in force is set out in the Eur-Lex database:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would involve disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation were currently the responsibility of the Department for Transport or its predecessor Departments.

There are a number of directives, which have come into force since 1 April 2010, for which my Department has responsibility. The entry in force and transposition dates often differ and can sometimes be years apart. A list of directives and amending directives covering a range of cross-transport policies are as follows:

Directive 1997/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 1997 relating to the masses and dimensions of certain categories of motor vehicles and their trailers and amending Directive 70/156/EEC.

Directive 2005/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 amending Directive 1999/32/EC.

Directive 2006/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 relating to emissions from air conditioning systems in motor vehicles and amending Council Directive 70/156/EEC.

2006/87/EC Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels and repealing Council Directive 82/714/EEC.

2006/137/EC Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 amending Directive 2006/87/EC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

Directive 2007/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community.

Council Directive 2008/59/EC of 12 June 2008 adapting Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, by reason of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania.

Commission Directive 2008/67/EC of 30 June 2008 amending Council Directive 96/98/EC on marine equipment/

Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on the inland transport of dangerous goods.

Directive 2008/87/EC of 22 September 2008 amending Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

Directive 2008/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on road infrastructure safety management.

Directive 2008/126/EC of 19 December 2008 amending Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

Directive 2009/26/EC of 6 April 2009 amending Council Directive 96/98/EC on marine equipment.

Directive 2009/46/EC of 24 April 2009 amending Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

Directive 2009/112/EC of 25 August 2009 amending Council Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences.

Directive 2009/113/EC of 25 August 2009 amending Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on driving licences.

Directive 2009/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements.

Directive 2010/22/EU of 15 March 2010 amending, for the purposes of their adaptation to technical progress, Council Directives 80/720/EEC, 86/298/EEC, 86/415/EEC and 87/402/EEC and Directives 2000/25/EC and 2003/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors.

London Underground: Guide Dogs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what reasons he has not confirmed an amendment to the byelaws relating to guide dogs for the blind using moving escalators on London Underground; [60650]

(2) by what date he expects to confirm a revised byelaw to allow certain dogs to use moving escalators on London Underground. [60651]

Norman Baker: The London Regional Transport Byelaws 2000, which, among other things, prohibit animals from walking on moving escalators, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL).

Peter Hendy, TfL's Commissioner of Transport, has recently written to the Secretary of State seeking to confirm a number of revisions to the byelaws, which include making an exception to this requirement for trained assistance and police dogs. Amendments now need to be made to the (national) railway byelaws to make the two sets of byelaws fully consistent. We expect these amendments and the confirmation of TfL's byelaws in the autumn.

Manchester Airport

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others on the potential for increasing capacity at Manchester airport. [63189]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers attend various meetings with the operators of regional airports where they discuss a range of issues including Government policy on aviation.

The Government fully recognise the vital contribution airports make to regional economies. It is the Government's intention to develop an aviation policy framework which supports economic growth and seeks to create the right conditions for regional airports to flourish. On 30 March 2011 the Department for Transport published a scoping document that frames the debate on the future direction of aviation policy and asks a series of questions, including on regional airports. The responses to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is in respect of people who have an illness that has prevented them from *(a)* making a statutory off-road notice and *(b)* insuring their vehicle; and if he will make a statement. [65790]

Mike Penning: The keeper of a vehicle is required to insure their vehicle or notify that the vehicle is off the road. If the keeper fails to do either of these options the enforcement process is started automatically. Mitigating circumstances, including medical information, can be put forward and will be taken into account to decide if the enforcement should proceed.

It should be noted that enforcement action is only started after a reasonable period of time has elapsed. Also, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will accept a statutory off-road notification made on the keeper's behalf by a spouse or next of kin.

Ports: Brazil

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make representations to his Brazilian counterpart in respect of the refusal of Brazil to allow British seafarers ashore whilst at Brazilian ports because the UK has not ratified the International Labour Organisation's convention 108. [65395]

Mike Penning: The UK has ratified the International Labour Organisation 108, a convention concerning seafarers' identity documents. The Department for Transport is not aware of any recent incidences where British seafarers have been denied access at Brazilian ports.

Public Transport: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to ensure the public transport network will operate effectively during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [64940]

Mrs Villiers: The Olympic Delivery Authority has the statutory responsibility for transport planning for the 2012 Games. It has recently published a second edition of its Olympic Transport Plan which sets out the plans for ensuring effective operation of all the transport networks.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, if he will publish the results of the value for money assessment applied to the bid submitted by Siemens with Cross London Trains. [64768]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement process has not yet concluded. The details of the bids are confidential to Siemens, Bombardier and the Department. To release this information could compromise their and the Department's commercial positions.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the written statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the impact on *(a)* direct and *(b)* supply chain employment levels of awarding the Thameslink contract to a bidder other than Bombardier; [64769]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that would be *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly created in the UK in the event of the Thameslink contract being awarded to (i) Siemens or (ii) Bombardier; and if he will make a statement. [64770]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham), on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 205-06W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families receive support for childcare costs from both the childcare element of working tax credit and housing benefit or housing benefit and council tax benefit. [63809]

Steve Webb: The Department estimates that approximately 100,000 families receive support for child care costs from both the child care element of working tax credit and one or both of the disregards for child care costs available through housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

This estimate has been made using the Department's policy simulation model. This is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS), uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels.

Additional data from the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents has been used in the modelling to provide a better indication of the number of families receiving child care support.

Child Support Agency

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the powers of the Child Support Agency to investigate non-resident parents where a disparity appears between lifestyle and declared earnings. [63408]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the powers of the Child Support Agency to investigate non-resident parents where a disparity appears between lifestyle and declared earnings. [63408]

The variations scheme is relevant if a parent believes there are circumstances which should be taken into account in assessing what should be paid to support a child that have not been captured within the standard maintenance calculation. Under the 2003 child maintenance scheme a "variation" can be allowed in cases where the non-resident parent seems to have a lifestyle which is inconsistent with the amount of income that has been used in the maintenance calculation, and which suggests that they might have other income which should have been taken into account.

Generally a decision on whether to agree to a variation will be made on the basis of the information brought forward by the parent with care. However in certain cases—for example where there is a likelihood of serious fraud being committed—the Commission has the power to undertake further investigations. The Commission can appoint inspectors to obtain information required. Inspectors have the power to enter premises (except those only used as a home) to make enquiries and to inspect documents.

In January the Department for Work and Pensions published its Green Paper, "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance". The purpose of the Green Paper was to seek views on the Government's strategy for reforming the child maintenance system by empowering parents to take responsibility for their children and families. The consultation is now closed and the Government is considering the responses.

Variations will continue to be available to parents in the proposed new child maintenance scheme and will be based upon more robust HMRC information. They will continue to capture circumstances which are not accounted for in the maintenance calculation.

We are currently in the process of working on the details of the new variations scheme in order to fulfil the Commission's commitments of simplifying and improving the child maintenance assessment process. Along with the new variations system there will be a new duty on the Commission to support parent with care applications by using readily available information sources such as HMRC. The detail of the new variations scheme will be included in draft regulations, which will be subject to consultation in due course.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will explore the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on its estate. [65375]

Chris Grayling: The Department has already examined the feasibility of low-carbon generation on its estate, in conjunction with its PFI Estates Partner, and will continue to do so, in line with commitments outlined within its Carbon Management Plan.

A Salix-funded combined heat and power (CHP) plant was installed at the Department's Quarry House headquarters building in Leeds at the end of 2010. It is fuelled by natural gas and is classified as 'low-carbon' technology.' Initial indications are that performance is exceeding the estimated saving of £90,000 and 428tCO_2 a year. The lessons learned from the project are now being used to explore opportunities across the estate.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64678]

Chris Grayling: The Department has dismissed approximately 1,000 employees in each of the last three years for reasons including under-performance, gross misconduct, and unacceptable levels of sickness absence.

The number of officials specifically dismissed for under-performance in each of the last three years is recorded in the following table.

Reporting period	*Officials dismissed*
2008-09	15
2009-10	27
2010-11	38

The Department is committed to identifying and tackling under-performance and has robust procedures in place. Where poor performance is identified the Department will take the necessary measures. Initially this includes informal discussions designed to help, support and encourage the individual to perform to a satisfactory standard. Where this fails then formal warnings are given. Ultimately, if their performance fails to improve, then a sanction is applied and the individual may be dismissed or demoted.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64421]

Chris Grayling: In the main, Ministers from this Department try not to refuse meetings with Members of Parliament. However, detailed information is not available other than at disproportionate costs.

Disposable Income: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median disposal household income was for Sunderland *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [65069]

Steve Webb: We use households below average income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as that requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income for the North East region of England, before and after housing costs.

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, for the North East region of England, three year average 2007-08 to 2009-10, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised weekly disposable household income (£)	
	BHC	*AHC*
North East	367	327

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.
6. Weekly incomes are presented in 2009-10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Source:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2007-08 to 2009-10

Employment and Support Allowance

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a person who no longer qualifies for contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) because they have been in the work-related activity group for over 12 months who is reassessed and moved into the support group more than two years after they began their initial claim will have contributory ESA reinstated. [63219]

Chris Grayling: Claimants who no longer qualify for contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) because they have been in the work-related activity group for over 12 months, who are then reassessed and moved into the support group, more than two years after they began their initial claim, will have their contributory ESA reinstated.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the input and effectiveness of user groups in aiding people with disabilities to obtain work through the Work programme. [65292]

Chris Grayling: DWP expects Work programme providers to work closely with those groups that can help them support as many people as possible into sustained employment, and the payment structure is designed to incentivise this. The programme launched nationally in June and has long-term goals and measures of success, so it is not yet possible to assess the extent or effectiveness of different organisations' involvement. A full independent evaluation of the programme is currently being commissioned.

Housing Benefit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claimants currently in receipt of such benefit claimed more than his proposed cap for housing benefit claims for *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* five and *(d)* five or more years. [65517]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information relating to the duration of claims can not be reliably derived from housing benefit administrative data.

Industrial Diseases

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential implications for persons diagnosed with *(a)* stress-related illnesses and *(b)* musculoskeletal disorders of the recommendations relating to low-hazard workplaces in Common Sense, Common Safety when considering implementation of the recommendations. [64201]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive has implemented the recommendations in "Common Sense Common Safety" by developing some interactive tools for employers in low-risk business environments such as offices and shops, as well as new straight forward guidance, "Health and Safety Made Simple". These are intended to help employers to manage health and safety in their workplaces in a sensible and proportionate way,—including consideration of those diagnosed with stress or musculoskeletal disorders if applicable.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to reduce the number of health and safety regulations which impose unnecessary burdens or which have been assessed by his Department as unreasonable. [65088]

Chris Grayling: On 21 March 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions announced a review of health and safety regulation, with a view to reducing unnecessary burdens on business. The review is being chaired by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt. A call for evidence was published on 20 May with a closing date for responses of 29 July. The findings of the review are expected to be published by the end of November.

The Government's Red Tape Challenge will focus on health and safety legislation from 30 June to 21 July. Contributions are invited on which regulations should be scrapped, amended or left as they are. Professor Löfstedt will consider the contributions as part of his review.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged under 25 years in Sunderland Central constituency have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months. [65072]

Chris Grayling: The number of claimants under 25 years old in Sunderland Central constituency, who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months, is 30.

Notes:

Caseload data is rounded to the nearest 5

Source:

May 2011 caseload data published on:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 31 May 2011 with regard to Mrs Rahman. [65672]

Chris Grayling: Despite an extensive search, I am afraid the Department has no trace of the letter.

Personal Income: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average household income is of a family in *(a)* social rented sector and *(b)* private rented sector accommodation in Sunderland Central constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [65265]

Steve Webb: We use households below average income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as that requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure for the North East region of England, before and after housing costs.

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, for families, by tenure for the North East region of England, three year average 2007/08 to 2009/10, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised weekly disposable household income for families (£)	
Tenure type	*BHC*	*AHC*
Social renters	286	227
Private renters	321	245

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.
6. Weekly incomes are presented in 2009/10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
7. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one of more families and is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). In line with the wording of the question, analysis has been carried out at the family level.

Source:

Households below average income (HBAI) 2007/08 to 2009/10

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the modelling on the effect of the overall benefit cap carried out by his Department. [64636]

Chris Grayling: The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap uses DWP's policy simulation model (PSM), which is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels.

The impacts of the policy to introduce a cap on the overall level of benefits that can be received by households in receipt of out-of-work benefit are published in the impact assessment and equality impact assessment which are available on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare%2Dreform/legislation%2Dand%2Dkey%2Ddocuments/welfare%2Dreform%2Dbill%2D2011/impact%2Dassessments%2Dand%2Dequality/

Social Security Benefits: Offenders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ex-offenders in each Jobcentre Plus area who had sanctions placed on their benefits went on to reoffend in the latest period for which figures are available. [65784]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the effects on the Exchequer of equalising men and women's state pension age as planned under the Pensions Act 1995, and then increasing the state pension age to *(a)* 66 by April 2021 and then 66 and a quarter by 2022 and 66 and a half by 2024 and *(b)* to 66 by April 2021 and then 66 and a quarter by 2023 and 66 and a half by 2025. [65753]

Steve Webb: The savings over the period 2020-21 and 2025-26 accruing from these timetables are (a) £32.4 billion (in 2010-11 prices) and (b) £30.6 billion (in 2010-11 prices).

Between 2026-27 and 2034-35, these timetables would result in additional savings of £27.3 billion (in 2010/11 prices).

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the effects on the Exchequer of equalising men and women's state pension age as planned under the Pensions Act 1995, and then increasing the state pension age to 66 by April 2021. [65754]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to her on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 277W. The savings estimates presented in that reply are computed in line with the methodology used to prepare the estimates of DWP AME savings published in the impact assessment presented with the Pensions Bill 2011. They take into account lower spending on pensioner benefits and higher spending on working age benefits.

The estimates presented in the reply are based on the current welfare system. Reliance on income-related pension benefits and working age benefits is assumed to remain in line with current age-specific rates of reliance.

The estimates presented in the reply assume a baseline of the state pension age equalisation timetable as legislated by the Pensions Act 1995 and the increase to 66 as legislated in the Pensions Act 2007.

The financial year breakdown of the savings is presented in the following table:

Savings on DWP spend on benefits

	£ billion, 2010-11 prices
2020-21	2.2
2021-22	4.5
2022-23	4.8
2023-24	5.0
2024-25	3.9
2025-26	1.3

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.

The financial year breakdown of the savings resulting from the Pensions Bill 2011 timetable is presented in the following table:

Savings on DWP spend on benefits—Pensions Bill 2011

	£ billion, 2010-11 prices
2016-17	0.3
2017-18	0.9
2018-19	1.7
2019-20	3.3
2020-21	4.4
2021-22	4.5
2022-23	4.8
2023-24	5.0
2024-25	3.9
2025-26	1.3

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.

Unemployment: East Midlands

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the average period *(a)* a man and *(b)* a woman aged (i) 30, (ii) 40 and (iii) 50 years in (A) Derby and (B) the east midlands was out of work following loss of employment in the latest period for which figures are available. [65792]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average period (a) a man and (b) a woman aged (i) 30, (ii) 40 and (iii) 50 years in (A) Derby and (B) the East Midlands was out of work following loss of employment in the latest period for which figures are available. (65792)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions; however estimates for duration of unemployment for these ages and geographies are not available. An alternative source, the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), is available for five year age bands from administrative data.

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the number of weeks between the start of an individual's claim and the date the claim was terminated. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims for May 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Median length of completed claims of jobseeker's allowance,[1] May 2011

Number of weeks

	Derby		*East midlands*	
Age band	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
30 to 34	11.6	16.2	11.6	11.0
40 to 44	16.7	13.0	12.1	12.2
50 to 54	9.9	8.0	12.1	11.1

[1] Length of claim data are available only for computerised claims, which account for 99.7% of all claims.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

Unemployment: Young People

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of youth unemployment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [65216]

Chris Grayling: The headline youth unemployment figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) cover the UK. These show the number of 16 to 24-year-olds unemployed on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition in February to April 2011 was 895,000, a fall of 35,000 over the last year. Nearly a third of unemployed young people are full-time students; the number not in full-time education and unemployed is 618,000, down 30,000 on the year. The latest unemployment rate for 16 to 24-year-olds—the number unemployed as a proportion of the active labour force—is 19.3%.

Figures for England, the west midlands and Dudley are available from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The latest data, covering January to December 2010, show a 16 to 24 ILO unemployment level of 738,000 in England and an unemployment rate of 19.2%. In the west midlands the level is 83,000, an unemployment rate of 21.2%. In Dudley there are around 6,000 unemployed people, an unemployment rate of 22.5%.

APS data are not available monthly. The following table shows the number of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) in England, the west midlands and Dudley over the last 12 months. These figures are not adjusted for seasonal fluctuation so month-on-month changes should not be seen as an indication of the underlying trend. Comparing the latest May 2011 data with the same month last year suggests the number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24 has fallen in England and the west midlands and risen in Dudley.

Number of 18 to 24-year-old JSA claimants

	England	*West midlands*	*Dudley borough*
2010			
May	338,475	47,360	2,850
June	318,895	44,860	2,745
July	324,845	45,365	2,785
August	336,775	46,560	2,830
September	341,980	47,465	2,950
October	334,980	46,195	2,855
November	326,680	45,235	2,795
December	321,125	44,825	2,745
2011			
January	337,220	47,190	2,920
February	355,045	48,720	2,960
March	351,150	48,335	2,915
April	347,080	47,970	2,960
May	337,990	46,855	2,925
Change May 2010 to May 2011	-485	-505	+75
	(-0.1%)	(-1.1%)	(+2.6%)

Source:
Nomis
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

Tackling the high level of youth unemployment it inherited is a key priority for the coalition Government. Young people will benefit from radical reform of the welfare system which, through the Work programme, will create more flexible, personalised support to find work. In addition, the 2011 Budget invested £200 million in support specifically targeted at young people which will include work experience; skills training; guaranteed interviews and progression into apprenticeships.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on reducing youth unemployment; and if he will publish the minutes of any such meetings. [65486]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, his ministerial team and the Department's officials have regular discussions with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss matters relating to youth employment.

As part of the development of the cross-departmental participation strategy, which was announced in the social mobility document published in March 2011, Ministers and officials from both Departments, and from the Department for Education, meet periodically to progress this work with a view to publishing a document in autumn 2011.

There is no standard practice of publishing minutes of ministerial discussions, which is in line with established principles from the previous Administration that inter-ministerial correspondence, discussion and the workings of Ministers' offices are generally matters performed on a confidential basis.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of future trends in the level of youth unemployment in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England and Wales. [65658]

Chris Grayling: The Department has made no such assessments.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in Islwyn constituency were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. [65694]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in Islwyn constituency were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. (65694)

Unfortunately, reliable estimates are not available for this information.

Published statistics for those not in education, employment or training in Wales can be found on the Welsh Government website at:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/post16ed/part-labour/?lang=en

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-combat vehicles leased or hired by his Department were manufactured in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* another EU member state and *(c)* a country outside the EU. [62675]

Peter Luff: Information on the origin of manufacture of vehicles leased to the Ministry of Defence is only available from the contractors in question and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this has been provided. Information on the origin of manufacture of hired vehicles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to David Wright:

In my answer to you on 30 June 2011 (Official Report: column 920W), I undertook to write to you and provide details on the origin of manufacture of non-combat vehicles leased to the Ministry of Defence.

This information has now been received from Babcock Commercial Hire and Lex Autolease, and I can confirm that as at 15 June 2011, for non-combat vehicles leased by the Ministry of Defence: 4,600 were manufactured in the UK; 7,132 were manufactured in another EU member state; and 3,228 were manufactured in a country outside the EU. Local arrangements for the provision of cars outside of these arrangements apply in the smaller commands, and details of these are not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Army: Equipment

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Future Army Equipment programme. [64959]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The strategic defence and security review set out a requirement for reconnaissance forces, tanks, and armoured, mechanised and light infantry.

The Ministry of Defence is currently undertaking a three month exercise to take forward the work needed to balance defence priorities and the budget over the long-term. As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), has said, it is essential that we put the armed forces' finances on a firm footing for the years beyond the current spending settlement.

Special Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62063]

Dr Fox: Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy manual and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. As temporary civil servants, special advisers are subject to the same rules.

Records indicate that the three paid special advisers claimed £70.65 for the period 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The MOD does not employ any unpaid special advisers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to replace poppy cultivation in Afghanistan with alternative agricultural crops. [65744]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID) programmes promote legal agricultural livelihoods by helping to increase business opportunities and incomes for farmers through promoting alternative crops, their storage and processing, increasing access to local and exports markets, and strengthening the role of government in setting standards.

For example, DFID supports the Comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Facility which aims to reduce the risk of a resurgence in poppy cultivation, by creating commercially viable and sustainable alternatives for farmers to generate a profitable income from livestock and market gardening.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the post-conflict stabilisation force for Libya will be *(a)* a UN or *(b)* an EU military deployment. [64879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UN leads the international response to the Libyan crisis, and will lead post-conflict stabilisation work. The UK is in discussions with our international and regional partners regarding a post-conflict solution in Libya. It is too early to speculate who and what might be required, but we remain committed to supporting UN efforts to help the Libyan people build a positive future.

South Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid his Department has allocated to projects to build the capacity of the Government of South Sudan at *(a)* national, *(b)* state and *(c)* county level. [65766]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated assistance for capacity-building at all levels of government. All DFID-funded development programmes in South Sudan contribute to capacity-building and one, the Capacity-building Trust Fund, focuses entirely on this objective. A precise breakdown by level of government is not possible as programmes often operate at more than one level.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to people displaced from the Abyei region of Sudan. [65767]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are deeply concerned about the situation of civilians displaced by the recent fighting in the Abyei region. At present, lack of access to the conflict affected areas and populations hinders accurate humanitarian needs assessment by humanitarian personnel, but the current UN assessment is of about 100,000 people displaced. We are working with the United Nations to ensure that if security and access is granted, assistance will reach these displaced civilians. The UN has reserves of both shelter and food for such situations. As well as its ongoing support to the Common Humanitarian Fund, the UK has made an additional £10 million available for contingency planning to respond to any emergencies that are linked to southern secession.

We are also working with the UN and wider international community to ensure that the new peacekeeping mission to Abyei, which is made up of Ethiopian troops, is able to fulfil its mandate to protect civilians who are threatened with imminent physical violence and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and personnel within the Abyei area.

UN Women

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on support for UN Women; and if he will make a statement. [65801]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has strongly supported UN Women from the outset, lobbying hard for its creation, providing transitional funding as it established itself and agreeing to a senior staff secondment. Following adoption of UN Women's strategic plan on 30 June the UK will provide £10 million in core funding to UN Women for each of the next two years. This will help UN Women achieve results for girls and women that include helping 15 countries adopt legislation to tackle domestic violence, supporting efforts to allow women to participate in political decision-making in 25 countries and holding the UN system to account on gender equality.

JUSTICE

Civil Proceedings

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he has any plans to implement a system of early exchange for medical reports in clinical negligence cases. [64700]

Mr Djanogly: My officials are working with the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) and claimant lawyer representatives to devise a pilot for dealing with clinical negligence cases valued from £1,000 up to £25,000. This will have a staged approach with the early exchange of medical details. The pilot is planned to run from April 2012.

In the context of our proposals for the reform of conditional fee agreements as indicated in our response paper "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations" (29 March 2011: column 173), my officials are also discussing with the NHSLA and other stakeholders how the commissioning of experts reports can be improved.

Land Registry

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects his Department to publish the feasibility study on the Land Registry to scope out the opportunities arising from private sector investment. [65748]

Mr Djanogly: As I explained in my response to your previous question on this issue on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 486W, we do not intend to publish the findings of the feasibility study at this stage:

> We do not intend to publish the findings of the feasibility study at this stage. The findings relate to the formulation and development of government policy and are still under consideration by Ministers. Publication might deter Ministers and officials from raising, and having free and frank discussions, about the full range of possibilities in relation to any given policy or approach to implementation. This would have a detrimental effect on both the process of collective government and the quality of the decision-making. In addition, the findings contain information that if released would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of Land Registry and the Ministry of Justice.

We are continuing to give careful consideration to the findings of the feasibility study, particularly with regard to how the options explored for the Land Registry link with the Government's wider data policy and the proposals to establish a Public Data Corporation.

If the preferred option for Land Registry is a materially different ownership structure we remain committed to conducting a full public consultation on the proposals.

Office of the Chief Coroner

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the *(a)* Equality and Human Rights Commission and *(b)* Youth Justice Board were consulted in respect of his decision on the Office of the Chief Coroner. [65769]

Mr Djanogly: We did not consult with the Equality and Human Rights Commission or the Youth Justice Board in respect of the decision on the Office of the Chief Coroner. We have, however, discussed our proposals with a number of interested parties.

Office of the Public Guardian

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken to process cases referred to the Office of the Public Guardian was in the latest period for which figures are available. [64667]

Mr Djanogly: Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) were introduced by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA), which was commenced on 1 October 2007.

Figures on the average time taken by the OPG to process an application to register a Lasting Power of Attorney in the current financial year are outlined in the following table. The timescales include a statutory six week waiting period during which objections to registration can be made.

	Weeks
April 2011	12
May 2011	12
June 2011	13

For the previous financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the average times to process an application in any given month varied between 11 and 14 weeks; the average of the monthly figures for 2011-12 was 12.5 weeks.

Personal Injury: Evidence

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to change the evidence requirements in relation to whiplash injury in personal injury cases; and if he will make a statement. [65510]

Mr Djanogly: Under the law of negligence, if a person has been injured as a result of the negligence of another person, he or she is entitled to recover compensation for the injury. If cases come to court, the claimant must provide evidence of the injury suffered in order to satisfy the court that the claim is justified. Restricting the ability to claim in relation to a particular type of injury could lead to injustice where people who have suffered a genuine injury as a direct result of another's negligence are prevented from recovering compensation.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners he expects to return to their country of origin to serve their sentences. [65804]

Mr Blunt: I have previously indicated to the House on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 140, that we expect to repatriate approximately 60 prisoners in 2011-12.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to amend the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [65592]

Mr Blunt: The Government are still considering reform of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Rochester Young Offender Institution: Inspections

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking in response to the report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons on the announced inspection of HM Young Offenders Institution Rochester of 14 to 18 February 2011. [65393]

Mr Blunt: As with all HM Inspectorate of Prisons establishment inspection reports an action plan will be produced responding in detail to each of the recommendations in the report.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) when she plans to publish her Department's response to the Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy consultation; [64508]

(2) if she will publish her Department's response to the Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy consultation before Parliament considers the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011. [64509]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* On 27 June 2011, draft specific duties regulations were laid before Parliament following the policy review which took place between 17 March and 21 April 2011. Alongside these regulations an Explanatory Memorandum was published which includes a summary of responses received to the policy review and to the previous comprehensive consultation on draft regulations that took place in 2010.

The Explanatory Memorandum explains the Government's rationale for their approach and we do not intend to publish a separate response to the policy review. We are, however, making arrangements to publish the responses received from organisations on the Home Office website.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Equality and Human Rights Commission using the Government Procurement Card in each of the last three years. [59051]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (The Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Commission for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 have been deposited in the Library of the House. This includes, for each transaction: *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier. Level 3 or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost; however each transaction does have a merchant category which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Accountancy

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to meet the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to discuss its qualified accounts for 2009-10 audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General in respect of matters identified by the Comptroller and Auditor General relating to its *(a)* procurement, *(b)* disbursement grants, *(c)* senior management governance and *(d)* pay remit; and if she will make a statement. [61970]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities and I have regular discussions with the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) about a range of issues. These include the Commission's financial management, its unacceptable failure to produce an unqualified set of accounts since its inception, and its plans for improving its financial controls to ensure a better performance in future.

We want to reform the EHRC to become a valued and respected national human rights institution and equalities regulator, but for that to happen it needs to get its own house in order.

Equality Impact Assessments

Mr Marsden: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the Government Equalities Office provides guidance to Government Departments on the period of time to be allowed between the completion of an equality impact assessment and implementation of the policy the assessment covers. [63480]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Government Equalities Office (GEO) guidance, as set out in its recent quick start guide for public sector organisations on the public sector Equality Duty, makes clear that timeliness is essential in order for the Equality Duty to be fulfilled. The Duty must be complied with before and at the time that a particular policy is under consideration or a decision is taken, and also when it is implemented and reviewed. The Duty is a continuing one. The GEO does not specify the period of time to be allowed between completion of the relevant equality analysis and policy implementation.

The Equality Duty does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an equality impact assessment. Compliance with the Duty involves consciously thinking about its three aims as part of the process of decision-making, but there is no prescribed process for doing this.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will estimate the average amount of time taken for completion of an equality impact assessment which is not published at the same time as the policy proposal which it covers by the relevant Government department; and if she will make a statement. [63481]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Government Equalities Office does not collate this information, as there is no reason to do so. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to make any such estimation.

The Equality Duty requires public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. It does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an equality impact assessment. Compliance with the Equality Duty involves consciously thinking about its three aims as part of the process of decision-making, but there is no prescribed process for doing this.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Health Professions

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of health professionals arrested in Bahrain during protests in that country. [64322]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Bahrain has been able to attend some of the many trials currently taking place in the National Safety Courts, including the trials of the 48 medical staff. Our primary concerns in the legal process have been the methods of arrest, early access to legal counsel, allegations of abuse in detention, methods of interrogation, alleged coerced confessions, the charges brought against defendants, and the implications that medical professionals may not be allowed to carry out their duties without fear of recrimination.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised UK concerns about the trial of medical staff when he met the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 25 May 2011. I also raised the issue in my public statement of 1 June 2011. Our ambassador to Bahrain continues to raise our concerns at the highest level with the Government of Bahrain to ensure that due process is followed in all cases and that human rights are fully respected.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Bahraini counterpart allegations of intimidation of protestors outside the Bahrain embassy in London. [63089]

Mr Hague: Our ambassador in Bahrain has raised the cancellation of Government scholarships of some of the Bahrainis who protested in the UK with the Minister of Justice in May. The scholarships were subsequently reinstated.

We have not been approached about any further allegations of intimidation of protesters outside the Bahrain embassy, nor have FCO officials received any further reports in their conversations with the police. I have not therefore raised this with my counterpart the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa. If evidence were to come to light we would of course respond.

My discussions with the Government of Bahrain are focused on ensuring that the National Dialogue leads to genuine political reform, which meets the legitimate aspirations of the people, and ensuring that the Government of Bahrain responds to the reports of human rights abuses.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged use by Saudi troops deployed in Bahrain of vehicles supplied by UK-based companies; and if he will make a statement. [65803]

Alistair Burt: We have seen no evidence that UK equipment and vehicles supplied to the Saudi Arabian forces were used in a repressive way in Bahrain since we have seen no evidence that Saudi or other GCC forces have done anything other than safeguard installations in Bahrain.

Special Advisers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft in each year between May 2004 and May 2010. [58944]

Mr Lidington: A breakdown of travel costs for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) special advisers between April 2008 and April 2010 when accompanying the then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is as follows:

(a) Government car—None

(b) Private hire car—£1,604.15

(c) Train (including Europe)—£387

(d) Bus—None

(e) Commercial aircraft—£46,203.13

(f) Private aircraft—travel for my right hon. Friend and his team travelling on private aircraft was not costed on an individual basis, but for the group as a whole.

Detailed information on costings has not been retained for the years previous to April 2008.

The total cost of FCO ministerial and private office travel (including special advisers) is published on a quarterly basis.

Egypt: Constitution

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the constitutional declaration which states the principles of sharia law should be the basis of any new constitution. [64966]

Alistair Burt: Article 2 of the Constitutional Declaration of 30 March 2011 reiterated the language on sharia law set out in Egypt's 1971 Constitution. The Declaration also set out that members of the first People's Assembly and Shura Council will elect a provisional assembly to prepare a new draft constitution, which will be presented to the people in a referendum. It is not for the UK to dictate what should be acceptable to the Egyptian people, but we encourage the Egyptian Government to continue to consider wider constitutional reform in due course.

The Declaration also provided further clarity on the transition process, which we welcomed. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) reiterated the UK's support for a successful transition to civilian democracy and the key step of pluralistic parliamentary elections during his visit to Egypt on 2 May 2011. It is important that the people's voice is heard through free and fair democratic elections leading to a return to civilian Government.

European Union: UK Membership

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the economic benefit of UK membership of the EU. [64923]

Mr Hague: HM Treasury regularly reviews, for the benefit of Parliament and the public, a wide range of studies by external commentators that attempt to assess the economic cost and benefits of the UK's membership of the European Union.

The most recent update, along with a previous literature review from 2005, is published on the Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_disclosures_index.htm

following a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Neither review is a cost-benefit analysis. Rather, both reviews summarise published evidence on the economic impacts of the UK's membership of the European Union (EU), and cover for example the reported impacts on UK trade, foreign direct investment and productivity.

The Government are clear in their view that EU membership is in the UK's national interest. For example and as set out in the BIS Trade and Investment Analytical Paper No 4 - The UK and the Single Market, which can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/international-trade-investment-and-development/docs/u/11-719-uk-and-single-market.pdf

the Single Market is the world's most important trading zone, generating total GDP close to £10 billion in 2010 and providing us access to 500 million consumers without the barriers of customs or tariffs. European markets account for half of the UK's overall trade and foreign investments and as a result, around 3.5 million jobs in the UK are linked to the export of goods and services to the EU.

Greece: Asylum

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1030-31W, on Greece: asylum, how many UK experts are seconded to the European Asylum Support Office; and what plans he has for the future number of such secondments. [64715]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

No UK experts are currently seconded to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). However, the UK Border Agency seconded one official between 23 February and 24 March 2011 to work with EASO in Greece and plans to second a further two, also to work in Greece, in the near future.

The UK Border Agency would be happy to agree further secondments beyond these at EASO's request, if its resources permitted.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the members are of the Libya contact group. [64915]

Mr Hague: Membership of the International Contact Group has varied over time. At the time of the last meeting of the group in Abu Dhabi, on 9 June, 2011, 27 countries and international organisations attended as members and 14 countries and international organisations attended as observers.

At the 9 June meeting the member countries/organisations were: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Delegation, Luxemburg (represented by Belgium), Malta, Morocco, NATO, Netherlands (represented by Belgium), Norway (represented by Denmark), Poland, Qatar, Spain, Sweden(represented by Denmark), United Kingdom, United Nations.

The observer countries/organisations were: African Union, Arab League, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, GCC,, OIC, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Sudan, The Vatican, Tunisia, and the World Bank.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds have been provided to the Transitional National Council in Libya through the temporary financing mechanism; and on what date those funds were supplied. [64916]

Mr Hague: Qatar has provided $100 million to the National Transitional Council (NTC) in Libya through the temporary financing mechanism. Those funds were supplied on 23 June 2011.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects any further funds to be supplied to the Transitional National Council in Libya through the temporary financing mechanism. [64917]

Mr Hague: Qatar has contributed $100 million, and Kuwait pledged at the last International Contact Group meeting to contribute approximately $180 million to the National Transitional Council (NTC). We expect this in the near future. We are engaging with other potential contributors.

Libya: Sanctions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implementation of EU sanctions in ports in western Libya. [64913]

Mr Hague: The UK and European Union (EU) partners are committed to the robust implementation of sanctions against Libya. The implementation of restrictive measures is a matter for competent authorities in each member state of the EU. In the UK, the asset freeze against designated port authorities in Western Libya has direct effect in UK law via Council Regulation 572/2011. Criminal and civil penalties for breaching the asset freeze prohibitions are contained in the Libya (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011. HM Treasury published a notice containing details of the sanctions against the ports on its website, which was also emailed to several thousand subscribers.

National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence he has had with the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association; and if he will make a statement. [63188]

Alistair Burt: There have not been any recent meetings with the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received correspondence from members of the association relating to the decision by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals to allow the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to be accepted but not worn.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the protection of religious freedoms in Pakistan. [65488]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) discussed minority rights and religious freedoms with Acting Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar when he visited Islamabad in June. We engage regularly with both the Ministry for Inter-faith Harmony and Minority affairs and with the Ministry of Human Rights. Most recently, I met with the Minister for Human Rights and the Prime Minister's adviser for Religious Minorities on 5 and 7 July 2011.

We call on the Government of Pakistan to uphold the fundamental rights of all Pakistanis, regardless of their faith or ethnicity.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on military strikes in the Kordofan state in Sudan. [65438]

Mr Bellingham: Recent reports suggest that violence is continuing in many parts of Southern Kordofan. There are reports of aerial attacks by Sudanese armed forces; of abuses against civilians carried out by soldiers from both sides; and of innocent civilians being caught up in the violence. The British Government condemns the ongoing violence and calls all parties to cease hostilities immediately. The recent Framework Agreement on Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile is a step in the right direction but must lead to a ceasefire without delay, so that humanitarian aid can reach those in need, and talks on the future of Southern Kordofan can take place without continuing violence.

We urge the parties to keep to the commitments made in the framework agreement, and work urgently for a peaceful and long lasting resolution.

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to facilitate a peaceful solution to the situation in the Abyei region of Sudan. [65768]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), chaired a meeting of the Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights on 8 June 2011, which Amnesty International attended, and where the situation in Syria was discussed.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have regular contact with Amnesty International, discussing a wide range of human rights issues, including Syria.

Syria

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether briefing was provided by officials of his Department to the hon. Member for Braintree before his meeting with President Assad of Syria in June 2011. [64838]

Mr Hague: Officials from my Department met the Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Braintree (Mr Newmark), in London on 23 and 24 June. They provided him with briefing to make clear the UK position on the unacceptable violence in Syria and the steps we think the Syrian regime should take to stop the violence and begin meaningful political reform. Officials also updated him on the situation on the ground immediately prior to his trip.

Yemen: Arms Trade

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged transfer on 14 March 2011 of armoured vehicles and personnel carriers from Saudi Arabia to Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [65802]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Sana'a reported on 16 March 2011 that a Saudi vessel unloaded 75 armoured vehicles at the port of Aden and that it appeared that these were received by the Government of Yemen. There was no further detail and we have received no confirmation of the report.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Catering and Retail Services

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House what representations he has received on the First Report of the Administration Committee, Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons, HC 560. [65515]

Sir George Young: None. It is for the House of Commons Commission and Mr Speaker to respond to the Committee's report.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

National Assembly for Wales: Elections

Paul Murphy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Wales about new electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales. [64996]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given by the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), on 11 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 6W.

CABINET OFFICE

Birth Rate

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the male to female birth ratio was *(a)* in 1981, *(b)* in 1983, *(c)* in 1987, *(d)* in 1992, *(e)* in 1997, *(f)* in 2001, *(g)* in each year between 2002 and 2007 and *(h)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [64650]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the male to female birth ratio was in (a) 1981, (b) 1983, (c) 1987, (d) 1992, (e) 1997, (f) 2001 (g) each year between 2002 and 2007 and (h) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [64650]

The latest year for which figures are available is 2009. The table below shows the sex ratio for live births occurring in England and Wales for the years requested.

Sex ratio[1] for live births, selected years between 1981 and 2009. England and Wales

	Sex ratio: live male births per 1,000 live female births
1981	1,055
1983	1,056
1987	1,053
1992	1,053
1997	1,051
2001	1,050
2002	1,0[illegible]5
2003	1,051
2004	1,054
2005	1,049
2006	1,047
2007	1,057
2009	1,052

[1] The sex ratio shows the number of live male births per 1,000 live female births

Data in the table above are available for the years 1999-2000 in table 1 at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/summarytables.xls

The sex ratio at birth for 2010 will be published on the ONS website on 13 July 2011.

Civil Service: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in *(a)* York and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65674]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in (a) York and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. (65674).

In order to provide the information requested for York, ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate collection (1997-2006), which provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments, though for years prior to 2003 coverage is lower. The Annual Civil Service Employment Survey has been used for 2007-2010 estimates, and this provides 100 per cent coverage.

The estimates provided for Yorkshire and the Humber are based on the Mandate collection supplemented by departmental returns (1997-2005) and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2010) both of which provide 100 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies. The estimate for 2006 is based on the Mandate collection only and provides approximately 90 per cent coverage.

The survey reference points for the estimates are, 1 April for years 1997-2005, 30 September 2006-2007 and 31 March for 2008-2010. Estimates relating to May of each year are not available.

The estimates for York and Yorkshire and the Humber are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Civil service employment in York and Yorkshire and the Humber[1]

Permanent employees, full-time equivalent

	1997[2]	*1998[2]*	*1999[2]*	*2000[2]*	*2001[2]*	*2002[2]*	*2003[2]*	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2006[3]*	*2007[3]*	*2008[4]*	*2009[4]*	*2010[4]*
York[5]	1,560	1,460	1,490	1,630	1,760	2,140	2,420	2,760	2,850	2,750	[6]2,850	[6]2,860	[6]2,970	[6]2,960
Yorkshire and the Humber[7]	32,270	32,010	32,030	33,060	33,890	35,050	35,570	39,140	38,670	34,500	36,330	36,370	36,580	37,200

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by '—'.

[2] Survey reference date 1 April.

[3] Survey reference date 30 September.

[4] Survey reference date 31 March.

[5] 1997-2006 Mandate only—incomplete coverage of Civil Service departments. 2007-2009 Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

[6] The Annual Civil Service Employment Survey uses post code to derive location. The former Central Science Laboratory (CSL), now Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) is now classified as being in Ryedale based on post code information but is included here for consistency with previously published estimates.

[7] 1997-2005 Mandate and departmental returns. 2006 Mandate only—incomplete coverage of Civil Service departments. 2007-2010 Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

Sources:

Mandate collection (1997-2006)

Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2010)

Cybercrime

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what his most recent assessment is of the threat faced by the UK from cyber attack; and what his policy is on how to respond to that threat; [64840]

(2) what the timetable is for delivery of all cyber security programmes initiated since May 2010. [64841]

Mr Maude: This Government have recognised the real and increasing risk to the UK's national security from cyber attack. The National Security Council has assessed cyber security as a Tier 1 threat in the National Security Strategy published on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 48WS.

The Government take the issue of cyber security very seriously and have recently announced additional funding of £650 million to protect the United Kingdom and to respond effectively to threats from cyberspace.

The National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) went live in April 2011 and is managed by the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance (OCSIA). The NSCP will run over four years.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Government collects information on the countries in which its suppliers are based. [65050]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the UK public sector, collates an annual statistical return to the EU on contracts awarded above the EU threshold, including the nationality of the supplier. These data are collated and published at EU level and the most recent return, for the year 2009, can be found at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/dataset?p_product_code=TSIER090

Directors of Public Prosecutions

Helen Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether former Directors of Public Prosecutions and senior officials of the Crown Prosecution Service are required to clear any contractual arrangements with external organisations contemplated within a specified period of leaving office with the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments in the Cabinet Office. [65743]

Mr Maude: Under the Civil Service Management Code all civil servants, including Directors of Public Prosecutions, are subject to the business appointment rules for two years after leaving office.

Immigration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EU nationals and *(c)* non-EU nationals were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. [64525]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) non-UK EU nationals and (c) non-EU nationals were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. 64525

Tables 1 and 2, as follows, show estimates of the total number and proportion of persons employed for UK nationals, non-UK EU nationals and non-UK and EU nationals by full-time and part-time employment for each year since 1997.

Table 3 shows UK nationals by type of employment as a percentage of the total UK population aged 16-64 over the same time period.

Labour market statistics published in the monthly "Labour Market Statistical Bulletin" previously described as working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59) have now been replaced with statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women. Consequently, the estimates provided have been produced on this basis.

Table 1: People aged 16 and over in employment by full-time and part-time and by nationality. Three months ending March, 1997 to 2011. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Total in employment[1]			*UK nationals*			*Non-UK EU*[2] *nationals*			*Non-UK and non-EU nationals*		
	Total[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
1997	26,245	19,618	6,618	25,316	18,921	6,387	216	161	56	510	382	128
1998	26,546	19,870	6,671	25,507	19,097	6,405	242	176	66	588	445	143
1999	26,909	20,105	6,801	25,855	19,295	6,559	271	203	67	571	447	124
2000	27,239	20,323	6,910	26,148	19,507	6,638	279	211	68	633	474	158
2001	27,505	20,487	7,005	26,306	19,578	6,717	293	223	71	711	533	177
2002	27,674	20,651	7,014	26,411	19,683	6,721	325	262	63	768	582	184
2003	27,966	20,724	7,229	26,606	19,686	6,908	346	265	81	846	644	200
2004	28,327	20,893	7,423	26,886	19,792	7,084	412	318	93	878	670	207
2005	28,635	21,337	7,286	27,001	20,056	6,933	478	382	96	999	779	220
2006	28,863	21,509	7,342	27,064	20,101	6,951	605	490	114	1,057	812	244
2007	28,976	21,545	7,419	26,947	19,934	7,002	923	769	154	1,101	839	261
2008	29,417	21,873	7,504	27,116	20,024	7,057	1,088	913	173	1,206	930	273
2009	29,074	21,490	7,534	26,713	19,640	7,028	1,119	909	208	1,235	936	296
2010	28,726	20,969	7,700	26,459	19,264	7,145	1,077	847	227	1,185	855	326
2011	*29,142	*21,176	*7,910	*26,636	*19,264	*7,325	*1,308	*1,041	**263	*1,193	*868	**319

Table 2: Proportion of people aged 16 and over in employment by full-time and part-time and by nationality. Three months ending March, 1997 to 201. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Total in employment[1]			*UK nationals*			*Non-UK EU*[2] *nationals*			*Non-UK and non-EU nationals*		
	Total[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
1997	58	43	15	58	43	15	60	44	15	50	38	13
1998	58	44	15	58	44	15	62	45	17	52	39	13
1999	59	44	15	59	44	15	60	45	15	50	39	11
2000	59	44	15	59	44	15	62	47	15	52	39	13
2001	59	44	15	60	44	15	63	48	15	51	38	13
2002	59	44	15	60	44	15	64	52	12	52	40	13
2003	60	44	15	60	44	16	65	50	15	54	41	13
2004	60	44	16	60	44	16	60	47	14	57	44	13
2005	60	45	15	60	45	15	66	53	13	59	46	13
2006	60	45	15	60	45	15	68	55	13	59	46	14
2007	60	44	15	60	44	15	68	56	11	57	43	13
2008	60	45	15	60	44	16	70	59	11	59	45	13
2009	59	44	15	59	43	15	69	56	13	59	45	14

Table 2: Proportion of people aged 16 and over in employment by full-time and part-time and by nationality. Three months ending March, 1997 to 201. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	Total in employment[1]			*UK nationals*			*Non-UK EU*[2] *nationals*			*Non-UK and non-EU nationals*		
	Total[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*[3]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2010	58	42	15	58	42	16	67	53	14	56	40	15
2011	58	42	16	58	42	16	70	56	14	57	41	15

[1] Includes those who did not state their country of birth.

[2] 1995 Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland and Sweden
2005 Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia join
2007 Bulgaria and Romania join

[3] Includes those who did not state whether they were in full-time or part-time employment.

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, are described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Table 3: UK Nationals by type of employment as a percentage of UK population aged 16 to 64. Three months ending March, 1997 to 2011. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

		UK nationals as a percentage of UK working age population[1]				
	UK population aged 16-64	*Total (percentage)*	*In employment*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Not in employment*[1]
1997	36,685	96	68	51	17	28
1998	36,821	95	68	52	17	27
1999	37,002	95	69	52	17	27
2000	37,217	95	69	52	17	26
2001	37,461	95	69	52	17	26
2002	37,693	94	69	52	17	26
2003	37,920	94	69	52	17	25
2004	38,194	94	69	51	18	25
2005	38,542	94	69	52	17	25
2006	38,899	93	68	51	17	25
2007	39,236	92	67	50	17	25
2008	39,513	92	67	50	17	25
2009	39,718	91	66	49	17	26
2010	39,927	91	64	48	17	27
2011	40,118	91	64	47	17	27

[1] Both unemployed and inactive

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Job Creation

Ms Buck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of new jobs created in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector in each of the last three years were part-time. [64876]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of new jobs created in (a) the public sector and (b) the private sector in each of the last three years were part-time. 64876

I regret that estimates of job creation are not available.

As an alternative, the table provided shows the number of people in full-time and part-time employment for the public and private sector, over the same period.

Full-time and part-time employment levels in the public and private sector[1]*, three months ending March, 2009 to 2011—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

Thousand and percentage

	Private[2]					*Public*[3]				
	Full time	*Proportion of private sector*	*Part time*	*Proportion of private sector*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Proportion of public sector*	*Part time*	*Proportion of public sector*	*Total*
2009	16,367	75	5,390	25	21,771	5,085	71	2,076	29	7,165
2010	15,880	74	5,460	26	21,354	5,044	70	2,147	30	7,193

Full-time and part-time employment levels in the public and private sector[1], three months ending March, 2009 to 2011—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Private[2]					*Public[3]*				
	Full time	*Proportion of private sector*	*Part time*	*Proportion of private sector*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Proportion of public sector*	*Part time*	*Proportion of public sector*	*Total*
2011	16,062	74	5,620	26	21,697	5,055	70	2,195	30	7,253

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates:
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for official Public Sector Employment estimates.

[2] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

New Businesses

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have started up in *(a)* Sevenoaks, *(b)* West Kent and *(c)* Kent since 6 September 2010. [65516]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses have started up in (a) Sevenoaks, (b) West Kent and (c) Kent since 6 September 2010. [65516]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, statistics for 2010 will not be available until December 2011.

Public Data Corporation

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in the development of the Public Data Corporation. [65746]

Mr Maude: Since announcing the Public Data Corporation in January 2011, significant progress has been made. My officials are working closely with their counterparts in the Shareholder Executive in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury.

As announced in the Budget earlier this year, we are considering the merits of machinery of government changes to facilitate the development of a Public Data Corporation (PDC) through a sponsoring Department. We are putting in place a Transition Board (previously referred to as the Shadow Board) which will be jointly chaired by myself and the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey). This Transition Board will oversee the establishment of the PDC Board.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to announce *(a)* the agencies and data to be included in the Public Data Corporation, *(b)* how the data will be made available, *(c)* what the licensing terms will be for the data and *(d)* who will oversee and regulate the corporation. [65747]

Mr Maude: In line with the Government's statement at Budget we will be publishing a statement on the Public Data Corporation (PDC) data policy in the autumn which will cover these points.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Export Licences: Saudi Arabia

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* standard individual export licences, *(b)* standard individual trans-shipment licences, *(c)* open individual export licences, *(d)* open individual trade control licences, *(e)* standard individual trade control licences and *(f)* Council Regulation 1236/2005 licences have been withdrawn from Saudi Arabia since March 2011. [65169]

Mr Prisk: Six standard individual export licences have been voluntarily surrendered by the exporter. No licences have been revoked by the Government.

Business: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses there were in *(a)* York Central constituency and *(b)* City of York local authority area in (i) May 1997, (ii) May 2010 and (iii) the latest date for which figures are available. [65676]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many businesses there were in (a) York Central constituency and (b) City of York local authority area in (i) May 1997, (ii) May 2010 and (iii) the latest date for which figures are available. [65676]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release; UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at www.statistics.gov.uk. These estimates relate to the count of live businesses in March of each year, not May. The earliest period for which reliable estimates are available is 2000. As the constituency of York Central only came into effect on 6 May 2010 the former constituency of City of York has been used for 2000.

The table below provides estimates for the number of enterprises for (a) City of York constituency for 2000 and York Central constituency for 2010 and, (b) York Unitary Authority for both 2000 and 2010.

Count enterprises for York Unitary Authority, City of York (2000) and York Central (2010) Constituency

	Number
2000	
City of York	2,655
York Unitary Authority	4,645
2010	
York Central	2,715
York Unitary Authority	5,745

Consumers: Contracts

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure the rights of customers with respect to statutory provisions for cooling-off periods. [64727]

Mr Davey: The Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000 and the Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008 provide consumers with a cooling-off period of seven days for consumers purchasing most goods and services at a distance or away from business premises. It is proposed that the new EU consumer rights directive will extend these cooling-off periods to 14 days. This will be implemented into UK law.

The Financial Services (Distance Marketing) Regulations 2004, the Consumer Credit (EU Directive) Regulations 2010, the Timeshare, Holiday Products, Resale and Exchange Contracts Regulations 2010 and the Trading Schemes Regulations 1997 all provide consumers with a cooling-off period of 14 days.

The Supply of Extended Warranties on Domestic Electrical Goods Order 2005 provides consumers who purchase such warranties with a 45 day cooling-off period. The OFT is currently reviewing the effectiveness of this legislation.

Flexible Working

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve flexible working rights for parents with children with special educational needs. [65582]

Mr Davey: On the 16 May 2011, I launched the Modern Workplaces Consultation, which includes proposals on how we are going to meet the commitment we made when entering Government; to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees.

Parents of children under 17, parents of disabled children under 18, and carers of certain adults already have the right to request flexible working, and many use it to help manage their work and caring responsibilities effectively, including when their child has special educational needs.

This extension will open up flexible working to all employees and will help embed the culture of flexible working within businesses, enabling many more employees to benefit from it.

Green Investment Bank

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he plans to announce the location of the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank; [64798]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the numbers of new staff and *(b)* staff costs required by the Green Investment Bank after (i) one year and (ii) five years. [64848]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank's location will be decided after state aid approval has been given and an announcement will follow that decision.

It is not envisaged that the Green Investment Bank will employ a large number of staff. During this Parliament, it is expected to grow to a staff level of between 50 and 100 employees. It is too early to make assessments about staff costs.

Higher Education: Finance

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage philanthropy to universities following the recommendations of the Browne Review. [64260]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper has set out the Government's proposals to encourage philanthropic giving to universities. This includes fully funding the final year of the £200 million matched funding scheme for voluntary giving, which is expected to leverage an additional £400 million in donations to English higher education institutions by the end of the scheme. We will also explore ways Government can support existing mechanisms for voluntary giving, including among graduates.

Additionally, the 2011 Budget contains a number of measures which we expect to benefit philanthropic giving to universities, including a 10% cut in inheritance tax for estates which leave at least 10% to charities. Furthermore, the Cabinet Office Giving White Paper announced a profile-raising campaign for payroll giving and a philanthropy committee to consider honours for notable philanthropists.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 333W, on higher education: private sector, whether and on what dates the Minister of State for Universities and Science had unofficial meetings with representatives of the other bodies referred to in the question. [64478]

Mr Willetts: I have not held any meetings with representatives of Bridgepoint, Lincoln, Corinthian, Kaiser, Rasmussen, Career Education Corporation and Westwood.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

HOME DEPARTMENT

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disabled people are being supported in employment in her Department under its access to work programme. [65043]

Damian Green: The Home Office is currently supporting 14 people with disabilities for whom it has received access to work recommendations from the Jobcentre Plus Access to Work Operational Support Unit.

In addition the Home Office, through its reasonable adjustments policy provides support to all staff with a disability who need reasonable, workable and effective adjustments.

Animal Experiments

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the Government announced its proposals to prohibit the testing on animals of household products and their ingredients; by what date she expects the prohibition to be implemented; and what the reason is for the time taken to implement it. [65081]

Lynne Featherstone: The announcement on the coalition's commitment to end the testing of household products on animals has yet to be made although we will be making a statement shortly.

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role responses to the consultation on the options for transposing European Directive 2010/63/EU will play in decisions on the future role and operation of the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate. [65368]

Lynne Featherstone: The public consultation on European Directive 2010/63/EU closes on the 5 September 2011. Decisions on the options for transposition will take careful account of the responses received.

Animal Scientific Procedures Inspectorate: Manpower

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are in post within the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate; and what the equivalent number was in 2007. [65278]

Lynne Featherstone: There are currently 25 staff in post within the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate. As at 31 December 2007 there were 28 staff in post.

Anti-slavery Day

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government has to mark Anti-slavery Day on 18 October 2011. [64402]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The Government will announce their plans in due course.

Arrests

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* charged with an offence under section (i) 4, (ii) 16, (iii) 18, (iv) 20 to 24 and (v) 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 (C) 2008-09 and (D) 2009-10; [64162]

(2) how many people were arrested on suspicion of murder between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many of them were charged with that offence; [64163]

(3) how many people were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many of them were charged with that offence; [64164]

(4) how many people were arrested for false imprisonment between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many of them were charged with that offence; [64165]

(5) how many people were arrested on suspicion of kidnapping between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many of them were charged with that offence. [64166]

Mrs May *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* The information requested on arrests and subsequent charges is not available.

Information on arrests reported to the Home Office is not broken down below main offence group level. There is no link on record between these data and any subsequent outcome.

Asylum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency will complete its review of the screening process for detecting vulnerable persons. [64867]

Damian Green: The Asylum Screening Reform Programme is looking at improvements that can be made within the Asylum Screening Unit to the physical environment, the screening process and to staff skills. The aims of the programme are to make the asylum system both more efficient and more responsive to the needs of applicants. Improvements to the screening arrangements are already under way; and will continue throughout this year.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the UK Border Agency will pause in its removal of asylum seekers until the new screening process can determine whether those currently in Detention Fast Track have been victims of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. [64868]

Damian Green: No. The Asylum Screening Reform Programme is looking at improvements that can be made within the Asylum Screening Unit to the physical environment, the screening process and to staff skills. The aims of the programme are to make the asylum system both more efficient and more responsive to the needs of applicants.

If any asylum applicant within the Detained Fast Track procedure claims to have been the victim of abuse, this claim is considered by the case owner who has responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing their detention.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Office plans to complete its clearance of unresolved asylum cases following the completion of the Legacy Case programme. [64869]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all outstanding legacy cases. There remain a number of cases that have been reviewed but remain to be concluded. These cases have been transferred to the Case Assurance Audit Unit (CAAU). It will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that should come to light.

Asylum: EU Countries

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 893W, on asylum: EU countries, from which countries she expects foreign nationals to attempt to enter the EU illegally via the *(a)* Mediterranean coast and *(b)* land border with Turkey in 2011-12. [64325]

Damian Green: All north African countries, including Egypt, with a Mediterranean coast have been used as staging posts for illegal travel to the EU. Libya and Tunisia in particular are currently the main source countries of foreign nationals attempting to reach the EU. The majority of these foreign nationals target southern Italy, predominantly the island of Lampedusa, and Malta. Increases in attempts by illegal migrants to enter the EU via the sea have been seen again this year following the Arab Spring uprisings.

Migrants departing from Libya are mostly from the countries within the horn of Africa, the sub-Saharan region, central Africa and lower numbers from Asia. Those departing from Tunisia are almost exclusively Tunisians.

Migratory flows from Tunisia have decreased recently as a consequence of the bilateral agreement reached between Italy and Tunisia, on 5 April 2011, which has resulted in regular repatriations of Tunisian nationals and the strengthening of police surveillance along the Tunisian coast.

Following a decrease in illegal border crossings at Turkey's land border with Greece during the first quarter of 2011, operational data from the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Border of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) indicate that this land border section is again facing an increase in detection numbers, mostly due to Afghan and Pakistani nationals trying to unlawfully cross the external borders.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64427]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not keep records of meeting requests that have been declined by either a Minister directly or by the Department on their behalf.

Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which *(a)* countries and *(b)* regions (i) foreign prisoners and (ii) illegal immigrants are not returned; and for what reason in each case. [63851]

Damian Green: There is no country to which the UK would not return those with no right to stay in the UK. However situations may arise in relation to any country, where practical barriers temporarily prevent actual removals from taking place. Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Failed asylum seekers, illegal immigrants and foreign national prisoners of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK, are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced if they do not leave voluntarily.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she uses to determine whether a foreign national should be excluded or deported from the UK on the grounds that his or her presence is not conducive to the public good. [64705]

Damian Green: Foreign nationals who are assessed to be non-conducive to the public good are routinely, but not exclusively, excluded or deported on the grounds of national security, criminality, unacceptable behaviour, war crimes or international relations.

Domestic Violence

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for a suspected offence under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many such people were charged with that offence. [64340]

Mrs May *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The information requested on arrests and subsequent charges is not available.

Information on arrests reported to the Home Office is not broken down below main offence group level. There is no link on record between these data and any subsequent outcome.

Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made for a visa by non-EEA workers under tier 2 of the points based system in each region in each year since 2008. [65100]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The number of applications made for a visa by non-EEA workers under tier 2 of the points based system (PBS) by region and in each year since 2008 is shown in the following table. It should also be noted that tier 2 of the PBS was introduced on 27 November 2008.

Region	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Africa	32	2,180	2,309
Americas	46	10,172	11,978
Euro-Med	17	3,634	4,718
Gulf	25	1,986	2,866
Pacific	50	8,687	10,828
South Asia	165	25,688	37,491
Total	335	52,347	70,190

Notes:
1. The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.
2. The figures include dependents.

Entry Clearances: India

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the British high commission in New Delhi will issue visit visas for Mr Kukdip Singh (Reference JLAC-260511-000127-1) Mrs Kamlesh Kummari (Reference JLAC-260511-000127-2) Miss Kanwarpreet Kaw (Reference JLAC 260511-000127-3) Mr Rajandeep Singh (Reference JLAC-260511-000127-4) for which applications were made on 26 May 2011 to attend a wedding of a constituent of the Member for Ilford South to be held on 10 July 2011. [65271]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* In order to safeguard an individual's personal information and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, the UK Border Agency is unable to comment on individual cases. The UK Border Agency aims to process each visa application within the agreed customer service standards but it cannot guarantee that all visa applications will be completed within this time. The unique circumstances of each individual case may result in longer decision times. For non-settlement visas the UK Border Agency aims to complete 90% of applications within three weeks, 98% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of compliance with rules relating to student visas by *(a)* independent schools, *(b)* universities and *(c)* sixth form colleges in each of the last three years. [R] [62964]

Damian Green: The Home Office published a report on 7 December 2010 containing an analysis of the compliance rates for samples of 12,656 university students and 5,648 students in other education sectors, drawn from Confirmations of Acceptance of Study issued between April 2009 and August 2010. This report is available from the Home Office website, at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ90/?view=Standard&pubID=864594

The report showed levels of potential non-compliance defined as those students whose leave to remain had expired and for whom we could not find any record of them having left the country.

The university sample was drawn from institutions who were applying for highly trusted sponsor status and showed a non-compliance rate of 2%.

For the other education sectors, the sample was drawn from institutions that had been subject to a roll-call investigation and non-compliance rates were:

	Percentage
Publicly funded FE/HE providers	8
Privately funded FE/HE providers	26
English language School	14

Data from previous years are not available. Further analysis of the data used to produce the published report could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Explosives: Arrests

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* charged with an offence under section 2 or 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883 between 2006-07 and 2009-10. [64258]

Mrs May *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* Information on arrests held by the Home Office is not broken down below main offence group level.

However, a separate collection from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) provides information on suspects charged as a result of terrorist related arrests, under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. These are published in table 1.3b of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrests, outcomes and stops and searches'.

Available data on charges from 2006-07 to 2009-10 under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883 are provided in the table.

Information is not separately available on charges for Section 2 of the offence.

Arrests data collected for the Terrorism bulletin are not recorded in a way that shows the suspected offences at the time of the arrest, therefore data on arrests are not available.

Number of terrorism related suspects charged under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act1883. Great Britain 2006-07 to 2009-10[1]

Financial year	*Number of persons charged*
2006-07	3
2007-08	2
2008-09	—
2009-10	4

[1] Principal offence basis

Human Trafficking

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work her Department is undertaking with police forces to implement a victim-centred approach to trafficking. [65222]

Damian Green: We are raising awareness and providing training to the police to help them deal with victims of trafficking.

Each of the UK's 55 police forces has a senior investigator trained in dealing with incidents of human trafficking. An awareness-raising DVD has also been provided to all police forces and Stop the Traffik cards have been issued to 10,000 front line neighbourhood police officers.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) plays a key role in embedding human trafficking into core policing through the delivery of training and tactical advice available to all police officers, including access to a 24/7 helpline.

On 1 June 2011 the Metropolitan Police Service launched a free victim support line to encourage men and women who have been trafficked into the UK to report the crime to the police.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on co-operation in *(a)* tackling the causes of human trafficking and *(b)* preventing human trafficking within the EU. [65246]

Damian Green: The Government work closely with their European partners on human trafficking matters through the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) liaison officer network, and the European liaison officers based in the UK and at Europol.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is also engaged in up-stream prevention work with EU partners and chairs the EU-wide Human Trafficking Strategy Group.

In June 2011 the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), met her French counterpart, Claude Gueant, to discuss their continued commitment to tackling organised immigration crime, including human trafficking. In June 2011 I addressed the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe conference on trafficking for labour exploitation.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her policy paper on trafficking. [65274]

Damian Green: The Government intend to publish their strategy on human trafficking prior to the summer recess.

Identity and Passport Service: Correspondence

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target time is for responding to letters from hon. Members to the Identity and Passport Service; and if she will make a statement. [65199]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has a service level agreement to respond to letters from Members of Parliament within 10 working days.

For 2010, IPS received 1,014 letters from Members of Parliament and responded to 87% of them within the 10-day target.

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the chief executive of the Identity and Passport Service plans to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Edinburgh South West of *(a)* 25 February, *(b)* 20 April, *(c)* 20 May and *(d)* 17 June 2011. [65200]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The chief executive of the Identity and Passport Service wrote to the right hon. Member on 7 July 2011.

Immigration: Crime

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 948-9W, on immigration: crime, how many emails she estimates were not delivered because of server errors in each such week. [64699]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has not produced any estimates of the number of emails to the public inquiries mailbox that it did not receive. In the period 14 June 2010 to 12 June 2011 the mailbox was unable to accept emails on four occasions. The UK Border Agency website provides a telephone number for Crimestoppers alongside the email address for its public inquiries mailbox as an alternative method for submitting allegations of immigration crime.

Immigration: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to review legislation which enables the European Court of Human Rights to intervene in immigration cases. [65394]

Damian Green: While everyone has a right to respect for their private and family life under article 8 of the European convention on human rights, it is not an absolute right, and it is legitimate to interfere with that right where it is in the public interest to do so. This includes in particular where it is necessary to protect the public and to maintain our immigration controls. The Government will be consulting in due course on family migration, and will use that consultation to discuss the operation of article 8 and immigration control. In light of the consultation, we will bring forward proposals which strike a proper balance between the individual's right to respect for family life and the broader public interest, and we will lay immigration rules before Parliament which reflect this.

In addition, the Government have established a Commission to investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights. The Commission will look at the way rights are protected in the UK and we expect it to explore a wide range of different views as it carries out its work.

Immigration: Proof of Identity

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to allow a national ID card of an EU member state as a proof of identity for the Life in the UK test. [65194]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: Foreign identity cards are not currently accepted as evidence of identity for taking the Life in the UK test. This is largely because of the large number and variety of foreign documents that University for Industry (Ufi) staff would need to be familiar with in order to ensure effective verification. The vast majority of those taking the Life in the UK test are able to provide another valid form of identity.

The UK Border Agency will consider whether the list of acceptable evidence could be reviewed. However, any proposed change in practice would need to be balanced against the resource implications of retraining and updating Ufi centre staff.

National Crime Agency: Finance

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the aggregate total is of the comprehensive spending review settlement for the precursors of the National Crime Agency and the costs of the fully funded functions it is agreed should migrate into that agency for its first year of operation. [65360]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Non-domestic Rates

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the revenue raised in Wales by the Security Industry Authority since 20 March 2006; and what proportion of such revenue that has been spent on Wales. [65576]

Lynne Featherstone: The information is not available. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) does not raise revenue in Wales or anywhere else in the UK.

The SIA issues licences to individuals who engage in any licensable conduct so defined under schedule 2 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Individuals who are licensed by the SIA pay a fee for their personal licence. The SIA licence application fee pays for all the costs of the SIA across the UK.

Police: Accountability

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* organisations and *(b)* local authorities submitted responses in support of the proposals in her Department's consultation on police and crime commissioners. [65201]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: The "Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people summary of consultation responses and next steps" document published in 2010 listed all respondents. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Police: Procurement

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which body will be responsible for implementing her proposals to bring together the different police procurement strategies across the country and make them more effective. [63708]

Nick Herbert: The Government are determined to take advantage of the economies of scale that 43 forces can enjoy if they work together on procurement. The High Level Working Group on Police Value for Money has agreed a strategy for police value for money. Key elements of that strategy are to drive greater standardisation and convergence among forces in the systems and services they use and a national approach to procurement across the police service.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) at present carries out some procurement functions on behalf of the police service. The non-ICT procurement functions of the NPIA will be transferred to the Home Office Commercial Directorate. On 4 July 2011, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), announced that the Government will set up a new police-led ICT company. The company will deliver greater value for money to the police service through exploitation of economies of scale, stronger ICT procurement and contract negotiation, and effective contract management. The company will also drive greater standardisation and convergence in police ICT by taking responsibility for managing information systems strategy.

Raed Salah

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to announce the outcome of her investigation into the entry of Raed Salah into the UK. [64259]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 July 2011]*: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has been asked to investigate the circumstances of Raed Salah's entry to the United Kingdom on 25 June. On receipt of that report I will set out my plans to announce the outcome.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps officials in her Department took on being notified of the presence of Raed Salah in the UK. [64341]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 July 2011]*: The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance the Secretary of State for the Home Department has considered it is important to do so and he had put the details of his case into the public domain. Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June as a result of numerous statements he had made, details of which were obtained from a variety of sources across the Government. As an Israeli national Mr Salah does not require a visa and he managed to enter the UK. He was on the Home Office watch list and should have been refused entry as a result of the Secretary of State's exclusion decision. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary is investigating how this happened now. Mr Salah has been detained and the UK Border Agency is making arrangements to remove him.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what grounds her Department issued an exclusion order against Sheikh Raed Salah; [65761]

(2) when her Department notified the UK Border Agency of the exclusion order served on Sheikh Raed Salah; [65762]

(3) when and where her Department served the exclusion order on Sheikh Raed Salah; [65763]

(4) when her Department was informed of Sheikh Raed Salah's presence in the UK; [65764]

(5) what contact her Department had with officials at the UK Border Agency regarding Sheikh Raed Salah *(a)* before and *(b)* after his arrest. [65806]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1221W.

Rape

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rapes were reported in each police area in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and how many were reported in the 12 month period immediately previous. [64416]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: Data for the number of rapes recorded by the police in each police force area in England and Wales are provided in Table A. The latest period for which figures are available is the year ending December 2010. Data for the 12 months to March 2011 will be published on 14 July 2011 in "Crime in England and Wales 2010/11".

The number of rape offences shown in the table need to be interpreted with caution. In the 24 month period for which data are provided, it is known that police forces took additional steps to improve their recording of sexual offences, including rape. This may be reflected in the increases in rape offences seen in the data. Extra guidance for the recording of sexual offences was formally incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules from 1 April 2010. However, some forces were following the new guidance prior to this date, reflecting good practice that the Association of Chief Police Officers had been promoting within forces before this formal implementation.

Table A: Rape offences recorded by the police, by police force area, in England and Wales[1, 2]

						12 months to December each year
	Rape of a female		*Rape of a male*		*Total rape*	
Force name	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
Avon and Somerset	321	316	38	24	359	340
Bedfordshire	171	104	7	8	178	112
British Transport Police	19	9	0	1	19	10
Cambridgeshire	169	210	15	21	184	231
Cheshire	130	168	16	14	146	182
Cleveland	133	161	13	24	146	185
Cumbria	89	118	7	12	96	130
Derbyshire	275	302	13	23	288	325
Devon and Cornwall	415	499	39	43	454	542
Dorset	195	215	22	14	217	229
Durham	112	133	9	15	121	148
Dyfed-Powys	101	102	16	17	117	119
Essex	342	435	23	37	365	472
Gloucestershire	120	150	13	5	133	155
Greater Manchester	794	720	77	79	871	799
Gwent	162	167	10	19	172	186
Hampshire	535	531	43	47	578	578
Hertfordshire	138	195	9	14	147	209
Humberside	215	348	28	37	243	385
Kent	289	337	33	25	322	362
Lancashire	230	343	20	36	250	379
Leicestershire	235	218	22	25	257	243
Lincolnshire	150	186	7	16	157	202
London, City of	2	6	1	1	3	7
Merseyside	265	309	21	39	286	348
Metropolitan police	2,430	3,025	170	190	2,600	3,215
Norfolk	159	181	9	13	168	194
North Wales	172	152	18	12	190	164
North Yorkshire	139	165	9	14	148	179
Northamptonshire	156	227	7	22	163	249
Northumbria	274	300	38	37	312	337
Nottinghamshire	319	270	31	26	350	296
South Wales	217	216	21	23	238	239
South Yorkshire	210	294	17	19	227	313
Staffordshire	249	226	16	29	265	255
Suffolk	209	213	20	15	229	228
Surrey	194	188	10	18	204	206
Sussex	367	429	30	36	397	465
Thames Valley	495	488	50	36	545	524
Warwickshire	103	112	13	11	116	123
West Mercia	300	253	13	37	313	290

Table A: Rape offences recorded by the police, by police force area, in England and Wales[1, 2]

					12 months to December each year	
	Rape of a female		*Rape of a male*		*Total rape*	
Force name	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
West Midlands	783	783	60	64	843	847
West Yorkshire	616	532	57	47	673	579
Wiltshire	130	160	10	10	140	170
Grand total	13,129	14,496	1,101	1,255	14,230	15,751

[1] Includes British Transport police.

[2] The number of rape offences shown in the table need to be interpreted with caution. In the 24 month period for which data are provided, it is known that police forces took additional steps to improve their recording of sexual offences, including rape. This may be reflected in the increases in rape offences seen in the data. Extra guidance for the recording of sexual offences was formally incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules from 1 April 2010. However, some forces were following the new guidance prior to this date, reflecting good practice that the Association of Chief Police Officers had been promoting within forces before this formal implementation.

Sexual Offences

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* charged with an offence under sections 57 to 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 between 2006-07 and 2009-10. [64257]

Mrs May *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The information requested on arrests and subsequent charges is not available.

Information on arrests reported to the Home Office is not broken down below main offence group level. There is no link on record between these data and any subsequent outcome.

TREASURY

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have *(a)* claimed the childcare element of working tax credit and *(b)* claimed more than £120 per week under the childcare element of working tax credit in each of the last three years. [64639]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the total number of people claiming the child care element of working tax credit, and the number reporting child care costs in excess of £120 per week, in April of 2009, 2010 and 2011.

	Total number of families claiming child care element	*Number of families reporting child care costs greater than £120 per week*
April 2009	470,400	142,400
April 2010	488,800	150,500
April 2011	493,000	146,600

This information is also available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics" for each year. These can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Credit: Interest Rates

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department is taking to tackle unscrupulous money lending; and if he will make a statement; [65505]

(3) if he will assess the effects of credit availability on the borrowing of low-income households; and if he will make a statement; [65504]

(3) what steps he is taking to protect consumers from excessive high cost lending; and if he will make a statement. [65503]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to reforming the UK's financial services regulation, curbing unsustainable lending and strengthening consumer protections, particularly for the most vulnerable and believes that consumers should have access to an appropriate range of financial services and products.

In October 2010 we announced the Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review and launched a Call for Evidence. It took an end-to-end view of consumer credit and personal insolvency; from the decision to borrow through to how we support people in difficulty and help them to resolve their debts.

The Government will respond to the Call for Evidence shortly.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Departments were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Departments' staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64679]

Justine Greening: All staff in HM Treasury have annual performance reviews.

Unsatisfactory performance is dealt with under the Managing Capability Policy.

In the period requested fewer than five civil servants were dismissed under this policy. It is the Department's policy not to release further information about staff numbers fewer than five where to do so could lead to the identification of protected personal data.

Economic Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with what frequency he meets the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss *(a)* macroeconomic and *(b)* financial regulation policy. [64738]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to prioritise payments of compensation for older and retired Equitable Life policy holders. [65581]

Mr Hoban: As set out in the Equitable Life Payment Scheme Design document published on 16 May, the Government have accepted the recommendation of the Independent Commission on Equitable Life payments to prioritise payments to the oldest policyholders, where it is possible and practicable to do so.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on a fuel duty stabiliser for Northern Ireland. [65166]

Justine Greening: Budget 2011 abolished the fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser. Fuel duty across the UK will increase by inflation only, when oil prices are high. If the oil price falls below a set trigger price on a sustained basis duty will increase by RPI plus 1p per litre. The Government are informally consulting before setting the level and mechanism for the trigger.

Financial Services: Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to promote financial literacy education for those who *(a)* are heavily in debt and *(b)* are at risk of being heavily in debt; and if he will make a statement. [65506]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service has been set up by Government to promote understanding of the financial system and raise levels of financial capability across the UK. Its services offer free and impartial information and advice on money matters and are available to all online, by telephone and face-to-face. The Money Advice Service has also launched a financial health check which aims to help people proactively manage their money on a regular basis and make the most of what they have got. The Money Advice Service aims to encourage people to better manage their money and so prevent them getting into unmanageable levels of debt.

Housing

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been returned to the Exchequer in payments via the housing revenue account subsidy scheme by each local authority in England in each financial year since 1997. [64974]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Housing revenue account subsidy surpluses have only been paid to the Exchequer since 2004, when the housing revenue account subsidy system was reformed to remove the rent rebate element, which is now separately accounted for in local authorities' general funds.

A table showing individual councils' housing revenue account subsidy totals for each year since 2004 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Measures have been published in the Localism Bill to reform the housing revenue account finance regime and replace Housing Revenue Account Subsidy with a system of self-financing for local housing authorities.

Housing: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from Welsh Government Ministers on the impact of the housing revenue account in Wales. [64973]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has been in discussion with the Welsh Government on the housing revenue account subsidy system and proposals for reform.

Income Tax

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered measures to exempt from income tax those earning below £10,000 per annum. [65141]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 increase in the income tax personal allowance for those aged under 65, taking it from £6,475 in 2010-11 to £7,475 in 2011-12.

A further £630 increase in the personal allowance was announced in Budget 2011, taking it to £8,105 in 2012-13. Together these increases will benefit 25 million individuals, and take 1.1 million low income individuals out of tax from April 2012.

This is part of the Government's long-term objective to increase the personal allowance to £10,000, with real terms steps in that direction every year.

Job Creation: Wales

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recommendation in the report by Sheffield Hallam university, for a policy of publicly-funded job creation in Wales. [65465]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor has made no assessment of the recommendations in the report for Wales. The majority of economic levers are devolved therefore many of the proposals are a matter for the Welsh Government.

Minimum Wage

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken was to consider a complaint of payment of wages below the rate of the national minimum wage in the HM Revenue and Customs compliance team in *(a)* Aberdeen, *(b)* Ashton, *(c)* Belfast, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Cambridge, *(f)* Cardiff, *(g)* Kilbride, *(h)* Exeter, *(i)* Maidstone, *(j)* Teesside, *(k)* Portsmouth, *(l)* Romford, *(m)* Sheffield, *(n)* Shipley, *(o)* Wigan and *(p)* Leicester in the latest period for which figures are available. [63752]

Mr Gauke: HMRC records the average elapsed time in working days from the date of registration of a complaint from a worker about non-payment of minimum wage to the date of closure of a case. The following table shows the average elapsed time, in working days, for complaint cases closed by the teams specified for the period April 2011 to the end of June 2011.

Team	*Average elapsed time (working days)*
Belfast	121.33
Birmingham	87.22
Cambridge	144.89
Cardiff	132.74
Exeter	171.92
Leicester	79.50
Maidstone	93.44
Portsmouth	198.60
Romford	95.00
Scotland (Aberdeen and East Kilbride)	154.33
Sheffield	97.13
Shipley	146.50
Stockport (Ashton)	162.38
Teesside	148.59
Wigan	117.50

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints obtained from *(a)* workers, *(b)* third parties and *(c)* risk profiling or targeted enforcement action on the part of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) were received by HMRC's National Minimum Wage Central Information Unit in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of those cases were referred on to HMRC compliance teams. [63753]

Mr Gauke: Since April 2011, HMRC categorises complaints as those received from workers. HMRC will investigate all complaints received and in the period April to June 2011, 406 complaints from workers were received and referred to compliance teams for investigation.

Information provided to HMRC from third parties is analysed using risk indicators and employers with the highest risk are referred for compliance action. In the period April to June 2011, 69 third party referrals were received from the Pay and Work Rights Helpline, of which 48 were taken forward for compliance action.

Risk profiling or targeted enforcement cases are generated within HMRC and consequently all cases which are generated, which meet the specific criteria being used, will be referred for compliance action. In the period from April to June 2011, 253 such cases were referred to compliance teams.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notice of underpayment orders were issued by HM Revenue and Customs national minimum wage compliance teams in the latest period for which figures are available. [63754]

Mr Gauke: HMRC minimum wage compliance teams issued 1,128 notices of underpayments during the period 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of complaints to his Department on payment of wages below the national minimum wage resulted in a repayment of arrears to the employee in the latest period for which figures are available. [63755]

Mr Gauke: For the period from 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011, 45% of complaints from workers about the non-payment of national minimum wage (NMW) resulted in the identification of arrears of wages as a result of non-payment of the NMW.

HMRC does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many national minimum wage compliance officers were employed in HM Revenue and Customs compliance teams in *(a)* Aberdeen, *(b)* Ashton, *(c)* Belfast, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Cambridge, *(f)* Cardiff, *(g)* Kilbride, *(h)* Exeter, *(i)* Maidstone, *(j)* Teesside, *(k)* Portsmouth, *(l)* Romford, *(m)* Sheffield, *(n)* Shipley, *(o)* Wigan and *(p)* Leicester in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and how many such staff he expects to be in each such team in (A) 2012 and (B) 2013. [63758]

Mr Gauke: The number of compliance staff requested, including a manager and support officer in each team, is in the following table:

Team	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Belfast	8	7	7
Birmingham	8	7	8
Cambridge	8	8	7
Cardiff	8	8	9
Colchester	n/a	5	4
Exeter	8	9	8
Leicester	7	7	5
Maidstone	7	7	7
Oxford	4	6	6
Portsmouth	6	6	6
Romford	9	9	9
Scotland (Aberdeen and East Kilbride)	11	11	11
Sheffield	7	6	6
Shipley	8	6	6
Stockport (Ashton)	8	7	7
Teesside	10	9	9
Wigan	8	7	7

HMRC is currently undertaking internal recruitment to a number of the NMW compliance teams. Current indications are that HMRC will continue to receive funding from the Department for Business that will see staffing levels maintained in 2012 and 2013.

National Insurance Contributions

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the national insurance holiday scheme to enable existing micro businesses who employ one additional member of staff to remain eligible. [62985]

Mr Gauke: A reliable estimate of the potential cost of extending the national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday to existing micro businesses who employ one additional member of staff is not available due to data limitations.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to all existing micro businesses but believes the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

Non-domestic Rates: Income

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether additional income from proposed changes to business rates will be retained by local authorities. [64855]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Deputy Prime Minister confirmed on 29 June that the Government would introduce proposals to enable local authorities to retain business rates. We will publish proposals shortly for consultation.

Public Expenditure

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what controls are in place in respect of payments by Government bodies to a recipient organisation, company, individual or other entity which is not within the jurisdiction of UK regulatory authorities and does not have up-to-date audited accounts in the relevant jurisdiction. [65745]

Danny Alexander: Payments by Government organisations, whether by grant, grant in aid or contractual, will be governed by an agreed framework document, grant letter or contract.

In addition, Accounting Officers have a personal responsibility to ensure regularity, propriety and value for money for public expenditure, including the management of opportunity and risk, and that grant recipients are eligible for, and use the funding for the purposes intended.

In particular, procurement guidance requires Government organisations to establish the propriety of candidate suppliers (i.e. excluding those convicted of fraud, theft, fraudulent trading etc.), and to assess suppliers to confirm their capacity to carry out what the purchaser requires and deliver value for money.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor to *(a)* respond to phone calls and *(b)* take the actions required as a result of receiving such calls was in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) the last month of each of the last five tax years. [53171]

Mr Gauke: For part *(a)* the information for the whole of the Department is not held centrally. However HMRC have been able to provide the average time to respond to phone calls made to its network of centrally managed contact centres (which handle the majority of unsolicited telephone contact to the Department) for each of the last five years.

(a) Average time taken to respond to phone calls[1]

	(m:ss)	
	Year	*March*
2010-11	4:14	3:28
2009-10	1:35	2:37
2008-09	1:57	0:57
2007-08	1:26	1:58
2006-07	1:04	0:36

[1] *(a)* "Average speed to answer." The time taken from when a customer selects an option from the call steering menu to when the call is connected to an adviser.

Part *(b)*—the information is not held.

Tax: Compliance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis by *(a)* age, *(b)* family status and *(c)* income group he has undertaken of customers of HM Revenue and Customs who are subject to compliance or enforcement activity. [61823]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have not undertaken any such analysis based on family status. However, I can confirm that they have carried out analysis of compliance enquiries by age and income group for customers who are income tax self-assessment taxpayers.

The analysis by age looked at the difference in compliance rates between all taxpayers and older people and was carried out for a NAO report looking at how HMRC deals with the tax obligations of older people.

The relevant section of the report will be deposited in the House Library. The analysis by income looked at the difference in compliance rates between taxpayers of lower and higher incomes and was carried out as part of an internal study.

VAT: Charities

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to exempt service charities from payment of VAT on expenditure on capital build projects. [65142]

Mr Gauke: The construction of buildings intended to be used by charities either solely for non-business purposes or solely for specific residential purposes is zero-rated for VAT, which means no VAT is payable.

I am not able to extend that relief to other capital build projects run by charities.

This is because long-standing formal agreements with our European partners prevent us from extending the scope of our existing zero rates or from introducing new zero rates. So buildings intended to be used by charities for purposes other than those described above will continue to attract VAT.

VAT Rates: Consumer Spending

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in the standard rate of value added tax on levels of consumer spending. [65435]

Mr Gauke: The answer to this question falls within the responsibilities of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 8 July 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The OBR has not produced an estimate of the effect of the change in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent in January 2011 on levels of consumer spending.

The OBR's March forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the June Budget, including the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent that took effect from 4 January 2011.

The OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the impact of VAT on aggregate demand in the economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the interim OBR's June Budget document. The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast and the OBR's November and March forecasts assumed that the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent would reduce the level of real GDP in 2011/12 by around 0.3 per cent.

Welsh Assembly Government: Correspondence

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish all correspondence between his Department and Welsh Government Ministers on the Housing Revenue Account and the Major Repairs Allowance. [64972]

Justine Greening: It is important that UK and Welsh Ministers are able to discuss policy development and operational matters in confidence and therefore correspondence between Ministers of the UK Government and the devolved Administrations is private.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65041]

Gregory Barker: In common with all Government Departments, DECC does not receive any funding to support staff from access to work.

We currently have 53 disabled people who have been assessed by access to work in order to determine the level of reasonable adjustment in terms of equipment required. In addition, DECC have a further 17 people who have had reasonable adjustments supplied on the basis of internal health and safety or occupational health assessments.

We have introduced a programme of assessments for display screen equipment and this is approximately 60% complete. We anticipate the number of staff with disabilities who DECC support to rise as this programme progresses and identifies more staff who require support.

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he expects the first carbon capture and storage demonstration project to begin in 2016. [64931]

Charles Hendry: Subject to the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Scottish Power consortium, we expect the first Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration project to complete construction in 2014-15, and is expected to be operational as soon as possible thereafter.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work he has undertaken on the carbon capture and storage demonstration project regional clusters. [65446]

Charles Hendry: The potential for CCS regional clusters was considered in a study commissioned by this Department, 'A study to explore the potential for CCS business clusters in the UK' (Technopolis and GHK 2010, URN 10D/511), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/energy%20mix/carbon%20capture%20and%20storage/1_20100317095408_e_@@_ccsbusinessclusters.pdf

Support will be available under the CCS Demonstration Programme for projects that share regional infrastructure, as long as those projects meet the primary objectives of the programme.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on carbon sequestration, whether he plans to await the National Environment Research Council award decisions before making a decision on further carbon capture and storage projects. [65455]

Charles Hendry: Decisions on the Government's CCS Demonstration Programme are made separately from NERC award decisions.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65334]

Gregory Barker: The one-in, one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force until January 2011. Details of regulatory measures introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Library of the House.

The following statutory instruments imposing costs and benefits on business have come into force since 1 September 2010, including measures classed as tax and EU-derived legislation:

The Warm Home Discount (Reconciliation) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1414/pdfs/uksiem_20111414_en.pdf

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Termination of Licences) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1483/pdfs/uksiem_20111483_en.pdf

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Nitrous Oxide) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1506/pdfs/uksiem_20111506_en.pdf

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Fees) and National Emissions Inventory Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/727/pdfs/uksiem_20110727_en.pdf

The Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Finance and Fees) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/134/pdfs/uksiem_20110134_en.pdf

The Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1033/pdfs/uksiem_20111033_en.pdf

The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/984/pdfs/uksiem_20110984_en.pdf

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/765/pdfs/uksiem_20110765_en.pdf

The Gas (Exemptions) Order 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/232/pdfs/uksiem_20110232_en.pdf

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2715/pdfs/uksiem_20102715_en.pdf

The Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Designated Technical Matters) Order 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2850/pdfs/uksiem_20102850_en.pdf

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing etc.) Regulations 2010

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2221/pdfs/uksiem_20102221_en.pdf

No DECC regulations have been removed since 1 September 2010. However, DECC remains committed to simplifying the statute book and reducing the burden of regulation on business where possible. Internal reviews of our regulatory stock and engagement with our stakeholders have identified a number of potential repeals and simplifications to date, with the exact process for repealing these currently being explored. We will continue our efforts to identify opportunities to eliminate any unnecessary burden on businesses this year through full engagement with the 'Red Tape Challenge'.

No regulations have so far been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address emergencies and systemic financial risks.

Energy: Finance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of his Department's investment in *(a)* alternative energy and *(b)* clean technology in each of the last five financial years. [65656]

Charles Hendry: The Department was created in 2008 and holds records for spending from 2008-09 onwards.

(a) Direct investment in alternative energy (primarily covering including solar, wind, marine, hydro, biomass, and geothermal energy) has been as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	91.3
2009-10	128.3
2010-11	139.0

(b) Direct investment in clean technology (defined as Carbon Capture and Storage only and excluding spending on alternative energy included above) has been as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	8.0
2009-10	15.0
2010-11	57.1

Green Economy Roadmap

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the Green Economy Roadmap. [65653]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 153W, to the hon. Member for Hackney South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier).

Gas: Infrastructure

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the energy industry on the future of the UK gas infrastructure network. [65448]

Charles Hendry: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

DECC Ministers have had no recent discussions with the energy industry on the future of the UK gas infrastructure network; however, DECC officials have regular discussions with stakeholders on gas network issues.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on the energy market of an increased supply of gas from unconventional sources. [65456]

Charles Hendry: Last year DECC contacted a number of academic institutions, NGOs and private businesses to request evidence to help inform the Department's views on the prospects for global unconventional gas production. The responses are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/int_energy/gas_markets/gas_markets.aspx

New supplies of gas, whether from conventional or unconventional sources are to be welcomed, as helping to underpin the open, liquid and competitive market from which all gas consumers benefit.

Natural Gas: Housing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the future role of natural gas in domestic properties. [65447]

Charles Hendry: DECC frequently considers the future role of natural gas in the context of its goals to maintain energy security and reduce emissions. Analysis by the Committee on Climate Change in the Fourth Carbon Budget report suggests that natural gas will continue to play a significant role in the UK's household energy supply in coming decades. DECC will be responding to the Committee's report in the autumn.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with devolved Administrations on the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. [65445]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), maintains close links with the devolved Administrations on a range of energy related issues. Officials are in regular contact in relation to the decommissioning of nuclear sites and are working closely with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the Shareholder Executive to ensure the effective delivery of the NDA strategy, which was approved in April 2011.

Oil: Arctic

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had any discussions with his counterparts from *(a)* Norway, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* Canada, *(d)* the USA , *(e)* EU member states and *(f)* other nations on the suitability of existing oilfield equipment for the drilling of oil in the Arctic. [64930]

Charles Hendry: No.

Thorium

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss the use of thorium with power-generating companies; and if he will make a statement. [64130]

Charles Hendry: Ultimately it is for the industry to propose what type of fuel to use in any future nuclear reactors, the designs of which would be subject to independent regulatory assessment and acceptance. To date, no potential operator has put forward proposals for a Thorium-fuelled plant.

That said, the Department is aware of the potential of thorium-fuelled nuclear reactor designs and is in the process of assessing claims regarding its suitability as an alternative to uranium-based reactors in the longer-term.

The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) undertook a recent independent assessment, in which it assessed a number of claims made by proponents of thorium fuel. The report can was published on the NNL's website:

www.nnl.co.uk/positionpapers

The conclusion was that, while the science is reasonably sound, developing reactors based on a thorium fuel cycle would carry major technological and commercial risks. The resources required to develop these technologies to the point at which they might be deployed successfully at a commercial scale are also very significant.

To date, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, this has prevented private industry and government from investing significantly in the development of the technology. No thorium reactor design has been implemented beyond relatively small, experimental systems, while many either exist only on paper or have only had specific subsystems demonstrated. As an indicator of the challenge of taking this technology further, the Chinese Academy of Sciences estimates a development period of at least 20 years will be required before a demonstration thorium molten salt breeder reactor might be available.

While thorium does not appear to have a part to play in the UK's near to mid-term energy market, we do maintain an interest in its development. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has asked the NNL to look further into the wider benefits of next generation reactor designs and to compare the use of thorium and uranium fuels in them. We are expecting the findings to be available by the end of the summer.

Wind Power: Marine Sectors

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to co-ordinate contacts on offshore wind energy projects in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to address potential concerns from fishing and other marine sectors. [65164]

Charles Hendry: Potential concerns from the fishing sector are addressed at a strategic level by the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) Group. This is a UK-wide group, comprising offshore wind developers, government and fishing industry representatives from across the UK. It has produced Best Practice Guidelines for Fishing Liaison,[1] that it is currently working to update.

Potential concerns from those sectors with a navigation interest are addressed at a strategic level with the Department for Transport via the Nautical and Offshore Renewables Energy Liaison (NOREL) Group. This also has UK-wide remit and includes developers and navigation representatives.

At the project level, the planning process takes into account concerns from fishing and other marine sectors on a UK-wide and international basis, where appropriate.

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[1] The document can be downloaded from:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/energy%20mix/renewable%20energy/policy/offshore/groups/file46366.pdf

HEALTH

Funding of Care and Support

17. **Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the recent report by the Commission on Funding of Care and Support. [65125]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the answer previously given.

As set out by the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), in his statement to the House on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1232-1234, the Government welcome the report of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support and will consider its recommendations carefully.

21. **Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the recent report by the Commission on Funding of Care and Support. [65129]

Paul Burstow: As set out by the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), in his statement to the House on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1232-1234, the Government welcome the report of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support and will consider its recommendations carefully.

Decision-making: Consumer Involvement

20. **Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that those affected by proposed changes in health and social care provision are involved in the decision-making process. [65128]

Mr Simon Burns: This Government are committed to putting patients and public at the heart of decision making about health and social care services. "No decision about me without me" is a fundamental thread running through this Government's plans for improving the nation's health and well-being.

Mixed-sex Wards

22. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in reducing the use of mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS. [65130]

Mr Simon Burns: In just six months, the number of reported breaches of mixed-sex accommodation guidance has fallen by 83%, from 11,802 in December 2010 to 2,011 in May 2011. Across England, the reported 'breach rate' is now 1.4 per 1,000 Finished Consultant Episodes, compared to 8.4 per 1,000 FCEs in December 2010.

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65044]

Mr Simon Burns: The access to work (ATW) scheme is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department of Health does not receive ATW support for its disabled employees. None of the ministerial government Departments receive ATW support for their disabled employees.

The support given to disabled staff by the Department of Health falls within the provisions of the Department's 'Reasonable Adjustments' policy, which is compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64685]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has dismissed five or fewer employees for inefficiency in the last three years; five or fewer in 2009; five or fewer in 2010 and none to date in 2011.

Following Cabinet Office guidelines, exact numbers are not published where numbers are five or fewer to prevent individuals being personally identified in combination with other published information.

Diseases: Health Services

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support improvements in the provision of therapies for patients with very rare non-cancer conditions [65577]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill sets out the intention for the NHS Commissioning Board to take responsibility for the commissioning of specialised services for very rare conditions. Commissioning for these services is currently undertaken at both a national and regional level. Future commissioning arrangements will ensure that they are planned and delivered more consistently than at present.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will use to establish which therapies will be referred to the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services. [65578]

Mr Simon Burns: The majority of new drugs and significant licence extensions are considered through the topic selection process for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) technology appraisal programme, against published criteria. If NICE considers that by undertaking an appraisal it would not be able to add value, then for high cost, low volume drugs for very rare conditions, NICE can send the technology to the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services for consideration for possible inclusion in the arrangements for national specialised commissioning.

Details of the topic selection criteria and process for NICE technology appraisals can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/
howguidancetopicsarechosen/
how_guidance_topics_are_chosen.jsp

Glenfield Hospital

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the potential impact of reducing the number of adult respiratory extracorporeal membrane oxygenation beds available at Glenfield hospital, Leicester, following the review of congenital heart services in England. [64817]

Mr Simon Burns: The national health service in England is currently undertaking a procurement exercise to increase the provision of respiratory extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (otherwise known as ECMO) for critically ill adults with potentially reversible severe respiratory failure. It is expected that the newly designated service will be delivered through a number of hospitals to ensure patients have equity of access and receive parity of service.

The consultation of the Safe and Sustainable review on the future of children's congenital services finished on 1 July 2011. This review has taken account of the need for the NHS in England to be able to continue to provide high quality ECMO for children with severe respiratory conditions but has no implications for the adult ECMO service.

Health and Social Care Bill

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to make amendments to the designation and insolvency elements of the Health and Social Care Bill. [65800]

Mr Simon Burns: As confirmed at the debate on recommittal of the Bill on 21 June 2011, amendments to the designation and insolvency elements of the Bill will be brought forward either at Report, or in another place. Parliament will have full opportunity to debate these amendments.

Clinical Networks

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the benefits of clinical networks of operating as managed clinical networks; and what assessment he has made of the resource needs of managed clinical networks to carry out their roles. [64785]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical networks take many different forms; some are discussion forums for clinicians and scientists, others work to improve clinical performance and patient care for a specific patient group, and others—called managed clinical networks—seek to manage patients through specific pathways of care. Resource needs vary according to the size and responsibilities of the network.

The NHS Future Forum report concluded that networks are:

> "working well to support multi-professional input to deliver improved outcomes for patients";

and the Government have committed to retain and strengthen existing clinical networks and to use clinical networks to help ensure that a range of professionals play an integral part in the clinical commissioning of patient care. Further work will be undertaken to define these networks and review their range, function and effectiveness to deliver strengthened clinical networks in the new system.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means allied health professionals will be able to provide advice and support through clinical senates and clinical networks. [64805]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government want the full range of health and care professionals to be involved in the new commissioning arrangements, supporting the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report makes clear that they will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant.

Clinical commissioning groups will receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services, in order to provide the best care and outcomes for patients. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report makes clear that clinical senates will provide advice on a range of issues and from a variety of health and care perspectives, including from allied health professionals. The NHS Commissioning Board will work with stakeholders and the NHS Future Forum on the detailed design of clinical senates, and we will publish further detail in due course.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes he intends to put in place to enable commissioners to receive advice and support from allied health professionals if they are not members of commissioning groups. [64806]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government want the full range of health and care professionals to be involved in the new commissioning arrangements, supporting the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report makes clear that they will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant. Clinical commissioning groups will also receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services. Clinical networks and senates will have a wide range of multi-disciplinary input, including from allied health professionals.

Clinical commissioning groups will be supported and held to account by a national NHS Commissioning Board. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for issuing guidance to commissioning groups on their duty to obtain appropriate professional advice, for example in relation to working with clinical networks and senates.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times he has met *(a)* Professor Louis Appleby CBE, National Clinical Director for Health and Criminal Justice, *(b)* Dr Ian Barns, National Clinical Director for Pathology, *(c)* Professor Dame Carol M. Black, National Director for Health and Work, *(d)* Professor Alistair Burns, National Clinical Director for Dementia, *(e)* David Colin-Thome OBE, National Clinical Director for Primary

Care, *(f)* Professor Matthew Cooke, National Clinical Director for Urgent and Emergency Care, *(g)* Professor Lindsey Davies, National Director of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, *(h)* Hugh Griffiths, National Director for Mental Health, *(i)* Dr Charles Gutteridge, National Clinical Director for Informatics, *(j)* Dr Rowan Hillson MBE, National Director for Diabetes, *(k)* Professor Martin Lombard, National Clinical Director for Liver Disease, *(l)* Dr Anne Mackie, National Clinical Director for Screening, *(m)* Jonathan Mason, National Clinical Director for Pharmacy, *(n)* Dr Donal J. O'Donogue, National Clinical Director for Kidney Services, *(o)* Professor David Oliver, National Clinical Director for Older People, *(p)* Professor Sir Mike Richards CBE, National Clinical Director for Cancer, *(q)* Chris J. Rudge, National Clinical Director for Transplantation, *(r)* Joan Sadler, National Director for Patient and Public Affairs, *(s)* Surinda Sharmer, National Director for Equality and Human Rights, *(t)* Dr Sheila Shribman, National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, *(u)* Professor Keith Willett, National Clinical Director for Trauma Care, *(v)* Anne Williams, National Clinical Director for Learning Disabilities, *(w)* Martin Stephens, National Clinical Director for Pharmacy and *(x)* Professor Roger Boyle CBE, National Clinical Director for Heart Disease and Stroke since May 2010. [64985]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State and Ministers at the Department meet National Clinical Directors regularly in the normal course of business and have done so since May last year.

Kidney Transplants

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many kidney transplants took place in England in each of the last three years; and what proportion were from *(a)* live and *(b)* deceased donors. [65758]

Anne Milton: The information is provided in the following table.

Kidney transplants performed in England, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011, by year

	Financial year		
Transplant type	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Deceased donor kidney	1,192	1,244	1,271
Living donor kidney	831	931	882
Other multi-organ[1]			
Kidney and pancreas	128	143	140
Kidney and heart	1	0	0
Kidney and liver	12	14	8
Total	2,164	2,332	2,301

[1] Multi-organ transplants involving kidneys (deceased organ donor).

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant

Maternity Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Commissioning Board will start to host neonatal networks; and what interim arrangements will be in place to secure existing neonatal networks until that time. [64784]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report sets out that the NHS Commissioning Board will be established formally by October 2012 with a limited set of functions, in order to start considering applications for authorisation from clinical commissioning groups. It will take on its full responsibilities from October 2013.

Clinical networks are not organisations, but rather they are a managed way of bringing together the appropriate groups of all relevant clinical professionals alongside other key stakeholders—especially patient representatives, to support clinical commissioning groups in improving outcomes for patients in specialist areas. Existing clinical networks will be retained and strengthened, and there will now be further work to define these networks and review their range, function and effectiveness in order to develop transitional and hosting arrangements.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance to the NHS on the establishment of maternity networks and their relationship with existing neonatal networks. [64786]

Anne Milton: In June, the Government responded to the NHS Future Forum, where we agreed to retain and strengthen existing networks so that they cover many more areas of specialist care, and to give them a stronger role in commissioning in support of the NHS Commissioning Board and local clinical commissioning groups.

It is important that maternity and neonatal services develop and maintain close relationships, but service providers will need to agree how this can best be achieved locally.

Medical Equipment: Safety

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the safety of surgical instruments used in the NHS. [64742]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will assess and investigate any adverse incidents and allegations of non-compliance with the safety, quality and performance requirements of the EC Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC which are received with respect to medical devices including surgical instruments.

At present there is no evidence that there is a widespread problem with the safety of surgical instruments.

Negligence

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce further details of the Government's proposals for a duty of candour in clinical negligence cases. [64807]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have made clear their intention to strengthen transparency of organisations and increase patient confidence by introducing a "duty of candour": a new contractual requirement on providers to be open and transparent in admitting mistakes. This will be enacted through contractual mechanisms. We will set out more details about this shortly.

NHS Commissioning Board

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he intends to develop local arms of NHS commissioning boards to take on commissioning duties for shadow health groups; and if he will make a statement; [64794]

(2) how many sub-national structures the NHS Commissioning Board will have. [64795]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Health Service Commissioning Board will be free to take decisions about how best to discharge its responsibilities. It is anticipated that the areas covered by the primary care trust clusters now in place will be reflected in the initial arrangements for the local arms of the Board.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Commissioning Board staff deployed locally to perform direct commissioning and other associated functions will be permanently based in designated areas. [64796]

Mr Simon Burns: Details on the deployment of NHS Commissioning Board staff to local commissioning arms have not yet been finalised.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means he intends to assess when a shadow commissioning group should become an authorised commissioning group. [64986]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical commissioning groups that are ready and willing by April 2013 could be authorised to take on full budgetary responsibility. Some will only be authorised in part. Others will only be established in shadow form. This will be determined through a robust process of authorisation, run by the NHS Commissioning Board, with input from emerging health and well-being boards and local clinicians.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds will be available to shadow commissioning groups prior to taking in their commissioning functions. [64987]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) clusters will support the development of clinical commissioning groups through offering support, including a fund of £2 per head to support them in the development of their consortia. Where clinical commissioning groups are able, and supported by their PCT cluster, they can take on delegated commissioning responsibilities prior to April 2013, within the current legislative framework.

NHS Commissioning Board: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the budget for the NHS Commissioning Board; and when he intends to publish that budget. [64989]

Mr Simon Burns: Sir David Nicholson, chief designate of the NHS Commissioning Board, published "Developing the NHS Commissioning Board" on 8 July 2011. As that document sets out, the Board is at the early stages of development. The Board is expected to assume its full responsibilities from April 2013, and we will publish further information on associated budgets in due course.

A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Anniversary

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he attended any events to mark the 63rd anniversary of the creation of the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [64734]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), was pleased to mark the national health service's 63rd birthday by announcing the launch of the NHS Leadership Academy at NHS London's change through leadership conference on 5 July 2011.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 872W, on NHS: conditions of employment, what progress he has made on developing an HR Framework; and when he intends to publish it. [64988]

Mr Simon Burns: A national Human Resources (HR) Transition Framework which provides generic guidance covering the employment and human resources processes throughout the transition was published on 7 July 2011. This framework is intended to help provide consistency during the transition as well as encouraging best HR practice throughout.

A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Reform

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what involvement national clinical directors have had in developing NHS reforms. [64990]

Mr Simon Burns: The national clinical directors meet monthly to provide their clinical input to policy development, including national health service reforms. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Nationalclinicaldirectors/DH_089451

Organ Donors

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that implementation of the recommendations of the Organ Donation Task Force are not affected by his plans for efficiency savings in the NHS; and if he will take steps to retain all the posts that are responsible for delivery of the programme; [65756]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of donated organs that are transplanted as set out in the NHS Blood and Transplant Strategic Plan 2011. [65757]

Anne Milton: Implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations has seen donor rates rise by around 28% since 2008 but work continues at a local, regional and national level to increase donor rates still further to the 50% by 2013 anticipated by the Organ Donation Taskforce.

Future action will focus on increasing consent rates; ensuring that the potential for donation can be optimised in all cases; and increasing donation from emergency medicine. This will be achieved through a variety of means, including through the clinical leads for organ donation, donation committees and donation chairs in acute trusts driving improvement locally; regional collaboration to share learning and ongoing work to raise the profile and benefits of organ donation and transplantation with the national health service, professional groups and with the public.

We will seek to ensure that measures to increase organ donation are appropriately incorporated into the new arrangements for the Department and the NHS as these are established.

Commissioning: Advice

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on whose instruction the Specialised Service Treatment Group (SSTG) was established; on what date the decision to establish the SSTG was taken; when the SSTG was formed; what the *(a)* name and *(b)* occupation is of each member of the group; and what advice the group has given to NHS commissioning bodies on the commissioning of stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment. [65082]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is unaware of a Specialised Service Treatment Group that provides advice to national health service commissioning bodies.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when nominations to the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group were made; by what means *(a)* patients and *(b)* members of the public were selected to sit on the group; and on what dates the group has met. [65083]

Mr Simon Burns: Nominations to the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group were confirmed in April 2011. The patient representative organisations selected to sit on the steering group were chosen in part for their interest in specialised services, for example, the Specialised Healthcare Alliance and Rare Disease UK. They were also chosen in part for their broad interests in public and patient engagement, for instance the Richmond Group, a coalition often major charities. The steering group met on 5 May and 27 May 2011.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the supply of anti-tuberculosis drugs. [65115]

Anne Milton: Although there have previously been occasional shortages of tuberculosis (TB) medicines, we are not aware of any current national shortages or of patients being adversely affected.

The Department is working closely with the pharmaceutical industry and the national health service to help ensure that patients continue to get the medicines they need.

We have set up a group including two of the authors of a recent survey of anti-TB medicine supply (on behalf of the UK Coalition to Stop TB) and other NHS experts to look at what can be done to ensure greater security of supply. We are also looking at improving communication to enable better planning for patients.

EDUCATION

Academies: Admissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who will be responsible for ensuring equal access to academies under a fair admissions procedure. [64697]

Mr Gibb: All state funded schools, including academies, are required to comply with the School Admissions and Appeals Codes. It is the responsibility of admissions authorities to ensure that the admissions arrangements they set, having consulted with parents and others as specified in regulations, must comply with the code. Parents, local authorities and others as set out in regulations can refer any admissions arrangements they feel are unfair to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). Currently for academies these objections are made to the Young Persons Learning Agency. In future, subject to clause 62 of the Education Bill, we intend to see all objections being made to the same body, the OSA. Local authorities have a duty, under the School Admissions Code, to refer any admissions arrangements they feel to be unfair or unlawful to the OSA.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), launched a full public consultation on proposed reforms to the codes and it is intended that a revised form of the codes, taking account of the consultation, will be made available for admission authorities to use from September 2011. Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, we anticipate bringing the final codes into force in early 2012. One of the proposals in the consultation is that we would wish to enable anyone who has concerns over the fairness of admission arrangements at any school, including academies, will be able to refer their objections to the OSA.

Academies: Sheffield

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 881W, on academies: Sheffield, what plans he has for the future position of head teachers who have recently taken over failing schools; and if he will make a statement. [64374]

Mr Gibb: My answer given on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 881W, made clear that the Department does not intend to publish a list of the 200 worst performing primary schools in England. With regard to the future position of head teachers who have recently taken over failing schools, we will consider each school on a case by case basis.

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65048]

Tim Loughton: At the present time, no employees in the Department for Education are being supported in employment through Jobcentre Plus's access to work programme.

The Department for Education provided support for 58 disabled employees in the financial year 2010/11, through its own workplace assessment and 'reasonable adjustments' programmes.

Adoption

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of eligible children were adopted *(a)* within and *(b)* after 12 months in each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [64569]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities are responsible for making decisions about whether looked after children should be placed for adoption. However, they have no authority to place the children with adoptive families unless a court has made a placement order or the birth parents have given their consent. Once placed, the prospective adopter may apply for an adoption order once the child has lived with them for at least 10 weeks.

A table showing the numbers and percentages of looked after children adopted *(a)* within and *(b)* after 12 months of a local authority's decision that they be placed for adoption has been placed in the House Libraries. These figures apply to England only.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to assist *(a)* disabled children, *(b)* children with special educational needs and *(c)* refugee and migrant populations who are not in education, employment or training; and if he will make a statement. [64053]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The latest data show that the overall proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) has fallen substantially from 9.4% at the end of 2009 to 7.3% at the end of 2010. More young people than ever before are participating in education or training, building towards the Government's commitment to full participation as we raise the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

The responsibility to secure education rests with local authorities who have a legal duty in England to ensure that education is available for all children of compulsory school age that is appropriate to their age, ability, aptitudes and any special educational needs they may have. This duty applies irrespective of a child's immigration status, country of origin or rights of residence in a particular area. Local authorities in England also have a duty to secure enough suitable education and training to provide for the reasonable needs of all persons in their area who are under 19 but over compulsory school age and to encourage, assist and enable them to participate. These duties apply to all young people who are resident in the local authority's area.

The Green Paper 'Support and aspiration: a new approach to special education needs and disability' sets out proposals to improve the outcomes of disabled young people and young people with special educational needs. These include access to better quality vocational and work related options, with good opportunities and support to get a job and early and well integrated support through the 0 to 25 single assessment process and the Education, Health and Care Plan.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Sick Leave

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of days taken off sick per employee of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales was in 2010. [65027]

Tim Loughton: This is an operational matter for which Cafcass is responsible. I have asked Cafcass's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, to write to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

The Public Accounts Committee raised concerns about the level of sickness absence among Cafcass staff at its hearing on during its 2010 enquiry, Cafcass's "Response to Increased Demand for its Services". As a result, the Department's 2011-12 remit letter for Cafcass made clear our intention to monitor progress in reducing sickness absence.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 7 July 2011:

I am writing to you in response to the three Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently: The responses apply to England only.

PQ65027 - To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average number of days taken off sick per employee of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales was in 2010.

The average number of days taken off sick per employee was 11.4 days in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

PQ65028 - To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many persons employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales were classed as being on long-term sick leave in 2010.

The number of employees classed as being on long term sick was 242 during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. Long term is classed as anyone being away from work for a period of 20 working days.

PQ 65029 - To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) individual and (b) group grievances were taken out by staff employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England and Wales in 2010.

The number of formal grievances was 39 of which 2 were group formal grievances during the period 1 April 2010-31 March 2011.

Children in Care: English and Mathematics

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* looked after children and *(b)* other children achieved the expected standard in English and mathematics at key stage 2 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [64384]

Tim Loughton: Information on the percentage of looked after children who achieve the expected standard in English and mathematics in Key Stage 2 tests is available in table 2.1 of the Departments Statistical First Release, Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010. This shows the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March who achieved at least level 4 in English and mathematics Key Stage 2 tests for all years since 2006. Information on years prior to 2006 is not available from this data source. The publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information taken from table 2.1 is shown in table 1; this follows the current practice of comparing the academic achievement of children looked after continuously for 12 months with that of all children. Information on the Key Stage 2 performance of children not looked after can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months[1] at Key Stage 2, includes comparisons with all children[2]. Years: 2006-10. Coverage: England

					Percentage
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Children looked after					
Percentage who achieved at least Level 4[3, 4] in the following:					
English	43	45	45	45	45
Mathematics	40	42	43	44	44
English and Mathematics	32	33	35	35	36
All children					
Percentage who achieved at least Level 4[3] in the following:					
English	79	80	81	80	81
Mathematics	76	77	79	79	80
English and Mathematics	70	71	73	72	74

[1] Children looked after continuously for at least twelve months at 31 March excluding those children in respite care

[2]. Figures for all children taken from National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 and 3 in England, 2009/10 .

[3] Expected level for age group. Figures at Key Stage 2 are based on test results.

[4] Although there were 2,400 children eligible to take the Key Stage 2 tests the percentages are based on 1,800 children who attended schools that participated in the tests. Pupils in schools which did not participate in Key Stage 2 tests have been removed from the calculations. See Technical Note 9.

Source:

CLA-NPD matched data

Information on the Key Stage 2 attainment of children looked after continuously for 12 months for years prior to 2006 relates to children looked after continuously at 30 September each year. Because this data has been derived from a different data source and includes a different cohort of children, the percentages given in table 2 are not directly comparable with those shown in table 1 above. The earliest year for which this information is available is 2000; this is shown in the table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Eligibility and performance of looked-after children in Key Stage tasks and tests, compared with all children, school years ending 30 September 2000 and 2001. England

						Number and percentage
	Looked-after children				*All children[1]*	
	Number		*Percentage*		*Percentage*	
	2000	*2001*	*2000*	*2001*	*2000*	*2001*
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 2 tasks and tests	2,700	2,800	—	—	—	—
Number who attained at least Level 4[2] in the following:						
English	860	940	32.3	33.3	74	74
Mathematics	810	820	30.4	29.1	71	70

[1] Source—DFES statistical bulletin 'National curriculum assessments of 7, 11 and 14 year olds in England—2001'.

[2] Target level for age group.

Children: Autism

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps are being taken to ensure that children with autistic spectrum disorders receive the appropriate support in school. [65068]

Sarah Teather: Schools and local authorities have duties to identify children with special educational needs (SEN), including those with autistic spectrum disorders, and to make appropriate provision for them.

Consultation has recently finished on the SEN and disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration", which sets out wide-ranging proposals for improvement. The Green Paper says that the Department will make available free training materials on four areas of SEN, including autism. Outstanding special schools, including those which focus on providing for children with autism, will be able to apply to become teaching schools, or members of teaching school partnerships, developing their own staff alongside staff in schools in their network and sharing their expertise. The Department will also help local networks of schools develop teachers with specialist skills, such as skills in teaching children with autism, who can be deployed across clusters of schools.

Children: Protection

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many serious case reviews were carried out in each month from 10 June 2010 to the latest month for which figures are available. [61003]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Data on the numbers of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) initiated, following the notification to Ofsted of a death or serious injury of a child where abuse and neglect was known or suspected to be a factor between 10 June 2010 and 31 March 2011, is set out in the table.

It is the responsibility of LSCBs to decide whether to initiate SCRs, in line with regulations and statutory guidance.

Decisions taken by LSCBs on whether the criteria to undertake SCRs have been met are normally taken within one month of a case coming to the attention of the LSCB Chair. However, in practice decisions may take longer and may be revisited in light of additional information, such as new medical evidence or the outcome of a coroner's inquest, which may subsequently become available. Therefore, there may be variations in the data included in this table overtime.

The Munro Review of child protection has recommended how to strengthen the SCR process to enable lessons to be learnt more effectively and the Government will respond by the summer.

Number of SCRs initiated, as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 10 June 2010 and 31 March 2011 (includes information available to the DfE as at 30 June 2011 but please note these data are updated daily and are therefore subject to change)[1]

Number of SCRs initiated, as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted between 10 June 2010 and 31 March 2011 (includes information available to the DfE as at 30 June 2011 but please note these data are updated daily and are therefore subject to change)[1]

	Number
Number of SCRs initiated as a result of a serious incident relating to the death or serious injury of a child notified to Ofsted:	
Between 10 June 2010 and 30 June 2010	6
In July 2010	5
In August 2010	3
In September 2010	6
In October 2010	5
In November 2010	6
In December 2010	7
In January 2011	6
In February 2011	7
In March 2011	11

[1] Decisions are awaited on a further two cases.

Pupils: Traveller Communities

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school age children from Traveller communities there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire; and how many such children are registered at (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools. [64652]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The number of school age children from Traveller communities is not available. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published population estimates by ethnic group, but these do not have a separate category for Travellers.

The number of pupils of Traveller of Irish heritage and Gypsy/Roma ethnic origin in primary and secondary schools is shown in the following table.

State-funded primary and secondary schools[1,2,3]*: Number of pupils of Traveller of Irish heritage and Gypsy/Roma ethnic origin*[4]*. As at January 2011 in England and Northamptonshire local authority*

	State-funded primary		*State-funded secondary*	
	Traveller of Irish heritage	*Gypsy/Roma*	*Traveller of Irish heritage*	*Gypsy/Roma*
England	3,035	8,425	1,150	4,320
Northamptonshire	61	85	15	16

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Includes pupils who were sole or dual main registrations.

Source:
School Census

Executive Agencies

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each Executive agency established by his Department since May 2010; and what the development cost was of each such agency. [64731]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not yet established any new Executive agencies. As part of our reforms of public bodies four new Executive agencies are being established to deliver our key priorities:

testing and assessment;

school funding;

teaching; and

school leadership.

We are planning for these agencies to be in operation by April 2012. The development costs of the new agencies will be available once they have been established.

Curriculum

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether there are cost implications for his Department arising from the decision to split the National Curriculum Review into two stages. [64732]

Mr Gibb: We do not expect that our decision to phase the National Curriculum review will make a substantial difference to its overall cost, although it could make a difference to the way the costs are broken down between different financial years. We anticipate that, as this review is being managed by the Department for Education, the costs will be significantly lower than for previous reviews of the National Curriculum.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64691]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department (in the last three full financial years) is set out in the following table:

	Number of staff dismissed for under-performance
2010-11	0
2009-10	[1]—
2008-09	[1]—

[1] Fewer than 5

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61722]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* To date, the Department has asked to carry out a voluntary redundancy scheme for one of its NDPBs. The scheme is for Qualifications, Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) staff affected by its closure in September 2011; the estimated cost is £2.6 million. In order to try and avoid compulsory redundancy, we are making significant efforts to redeploy QCDA people. The Department continues to do all it can to avoid redundancies in the rest of its NDPBs, but can not say they will not be required in future.

Departmental Sick Leave

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many days of sick leave were taken by staff of his Department in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [64729]

Tim Loughton: Sickness absence data for the Department for Education are available on the Department's website. This confirms 15,086 days sickness absence in the latest 12-month reporting period, ending 31 March 2011:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00448/sickness-absence

Family Intervention

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families received an intervention through family intervention projects in each of the last four financial years. [64957]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Official statistics published for the first time in September 2010 shows that 3,518 families were either receiving an intervention or had received support from a family intervention project between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. Data for families supported between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 will be published in September 2011. We do not have this information for previous years.

Free School Meals

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to his Department was of the provision of free school meals for post-16 students in each of the last three years. [62963]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information about the cost of free school meals. Local authorities and schools fund free school meals from their overall resources, including the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is the main source of DfE funding for schools.

Free school meals are provided to eligible pupils aged up to 18 years in schools maintained by a local authority, as defined in the Education Act 1996. Pupils aged 19 or over are also eligible as long as their course of study began before attaining the age of 18. Pupils attending FE or sixth form colleges that are not part of a school do not qualify for free school meals.

GCSE and A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what subjects were available for study at *(a)* A level and *(b)* GCSE in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [64205]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* Details of A level and GCSE examinations are presented in "Inter-Awarding Body Statistics" prepared by the Joint Council for Qualifications, copies of which are available in the House Libraries. These publications provide breakdowns of entries and results by subject and therefore indicate the subjects which were available to be taken in each year.

Head Teachers: Vacancies

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of vacancies for head teachers in maintained schools; and what account was taken of the likely effects of proposed changes to teachers' pensions in deciding upon such steps. [64579]

Mr Gibb: We believe that the best schools and the best head teachers should take responsibility for developing the next generation of head teachers. We will continue to support the National College's existing approach to succession planning, which is focused on providing local solutions to find, develop and keep high-performing head teachers. Overtime we will increasingly work with teaching schools, as they become established, in order to ensure that promising leaders are identified in each local area and that they have the opportunity to learn from the best in the system.

Meetings are taking place between Government and public service unions to discuss pension reform in light of Lord Hutton's final report; no decisions have therefore yet been taken on changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS). However, in taking forward reform of the Teachers' Pension Scheme the Government will consider carefully the potential impact on head teachers, including recruitment and retention issues, in the context of the Government's wider education reform agenda.

Schools

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what powers local authorities have to control or direct state schools; and what powers he intends he should have to control or direct academy schools. [64479]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have a wide range of powers and duties in respect of maintained schools. A full list of local authority duties is published on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/reviewstatutoryduties/

Local authorities are able to decide significant changes (prescribed alterations) such as enlargement, change of age range, closure and establishment, to all categories of maintained schools (i.e. community, community special, foundation, foundation special, voluntary aided (VA) and voluntary controlled (VC)) which are proposed either by the local authority or the governing body. Governing bodies have a right of appeal to the schools adjudicator, in most cases, where they disagree with the local authority's decision.

For community and VC schools, the local authority acts as the admissions authority in respect of school admissions, the employer of staff in those schools and the owner and maintainer of the premises.

Local authorities may, under section 96 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), direct the governing body of a foundation or voluntary aided school in its area to admit a child where, in relation to every school within a reasonable distance from the child's home, the child has been refused admission or has been permanently excluded. Under section 97A to 97C of the SSFA, a local authority may direct other admission authorities for any maintained school to admit a child in their care to the school best suited to their needs.

Local authorities have statutory powers of intervention in maintained schools that Ofsted has judged as requiring special measures or significant improvement or where the local authority itself has given a performance standards and safety warning notice. In such cases, local authorities may require the school to enter into arrangements with another school or body, appoint additional governors to the school, suspend the right to a delegated budget, or apply to the Secretary of State to replace the governing body with an Interim Executive Board.

Local authorities may also suspend the right of the governing body of a community or VC school to a delegated budget where it appears to the local authority that the governing body has failed to comply with a delegation requirement or is not managing expenditure properly. In those circumstances, the local authority, and not the governing body may appoint, suspend and dismiss teachers and other staff at the school as the authority thinks fit.

Local authorities are represented on all maintained school governing bodies, but are a 'minority' category unless the school is eligible for intervention, in which case the local authority can appoint such number of additional governors as it deems appropriate.

In respect of the Secretary of State's powers regarding an academy, the Secretary of State establishes an academy by signing a funding agreement, which provides the framework within which the academy must operate. The governing body of an academy is accountable to the Secretary of State through the requirements of its funding agreement. If an academy is in breach of its funding agreement, the Secretary of State may take legal action. If there should be a need for the Secretary of State to intervene more directly in the running of an academy, the academy's Articles of Association make provision for him to do so by appointing additional governors to the governing body of the academy. The Secretary of State could also decide to terminate an academy's funding agreement if the grounds set out in the funding agreement apply. Academies continue to be subject to Ofsted inspections and are also accountable to parents through the achievement and attainment of pupils. The Secretary of State can ask Ofsted to carry out an inspection of an Academy causing concern. In addition, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), on behalf of the Secretary of State, plays a major role in overseeing the financial management of academies.

For both maintained schools and academies, the Secretary of State has reserved powers of direction.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of applicants to schools for entry in September 2011 were accepted by their *(a)* first choice and *(b)* second choice school. [64706]

Mr Gibb: Detailed statistics on the numbers of applications and offers for places at secondary schools in September 2011, at both national and individual local authority level, were published in the Statistical Release OSR 06/2011. This can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000993/osr07-2011.pdf

Information is not collected for primary schools.

Teachers: Industrial Disputes

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department has given to schools on the payment of salaries to teachers who will be affected by school closures as a result of strike action, but who do not support that strike action. [61571]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not issued any guidance to schools on the payment of salaries to teachers who did not take part in the strike action on the 30 June. It is a matter for individual head teachers to determine whether teachers who did not support the strike action should still attend school, even in circumstances where the school was closed to pupils. Regardless of any decision to close the school, teachers would still be able to carry out a number of key responsibilities such as planning and the preparation and marking of pupil's work and as such continue to be paid accordingly.

Teachers: Pensions

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what impact his Department expects changes to teachers' pensions to have on *(a)* head teachers near to retirement age and *(b)* other head teachers. [64578]

Mr Gibb: Meetings are taking place between Government and public service unions to discuss pension reform in light of Lord Hutton's final report; no decisions have therefore yet been taken on changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS). However, in taking forward reform of the TPS the Government will consider carefully the potential impact on head teachers, including recruitment and retention issues, in the context of the Government's wider education reform agenda.

The Government have already given a firm and absolute commitment that accrued pension benefits will be protected; and that any changes to the provision of public sector pension schemes, including the TPS, would take effect from a future date and in respect of future service. In addition, benefits already accrued under existing schemes will still be payable from the normal pension age in existing schemes; this will be 60 for many members. This means that those close to retirement, including head teachers, are expected to see little, if any, change to their pension benefits.

Transport Subsidies

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information he holds on the number of local authorities that plan to change the transport subsidies for 16 to 18 year olds accessing education and training for academic year 2011-12. [64962]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold information on the number of local authorities planning to change transport subsidies for 16 to 18 year olds accessing education or training for the 2011/12 academic year.

Youth Services: Finance

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of reductions in funding for youth services in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England. [64949]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Department for Education's funding for youth services for 2011-12 and beyond is included in the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The EIG allocation for Liverpool local authority has changed from £31.06 million in 2010-11 to £27.18 million in 2011-12, a reduction of around 12.5%.

Money for youth services is not ring-fenced within the EIG. Decisions on funding levels for youth services are for local authorities. It is for local authorities to assess and be accountable for them.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 13 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Attorney-General what contribution he is making to Government action to combat human trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [65774]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) vigorously prosecutes defendants who have been charged with human trafficking offences. In addition, the CPS plays an important role in preventing harm from trafficking from reaching the UK, through prosecutors working with source countries to improve the ability of overseas investigators and prosecutors in case building and prosecution to disrupt human trafficking at source. The CPS is also working with source countries to improve international co-operation to assist in the provision of information and evidence to support prosecutions in the UK. The CPS published a new policy statement on the prosecution of cases of human trafficking on 2 June 2011 that explains the prosecution process to those who support victims of trafficking.

I am also a member of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking which takes a strategic interest in human trafficking issues across Government.

Rape: Prosecutions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many serial rape offenders were convicted in cases where the prosecution used records from the National DNA Database in each of the last five years; [65666]

(2) how many convictions for offences involving multiple rapes were secured where the prosecution used DNA evidence in each of the last five years; [65667]

(3) how many convictions for rape were secured where the prosecution used records from the National DNA Database in each of the last five years. [65668]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains no central record of the number of serial or multiple rape offenders prosecuted, nor does it record the number of these cases where National DNA Database or DNA evidence was used.

This information is held on individual case files and could be retrieved only by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office in England and Wales which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Official statistics in respect of the volume and percentage of rape convictions are held by the Ministry of Justice.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people subject to an alcohol treatment requirement were registered as *(a)* homeless or *(b)* of no fixed address in the last five years for which figures are available. [65567]

Mr Blunt: The following table presents, for the last five financial years, the number and percentage of offenders subject to an alcohol treatment requirement who were recorded as being of no fixed abode or in transient accommodation.

This information is recorded within the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

		Currently of no fixed abode or in transient accommodation	
Financial year	*Number of assessments with ATR recorded*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	2,803	512	18.3
2007-08	4,920	845	17.2
2008-09	8,037	1,428	17.8
2009-10	12,063	1,923	15.9
2010-11	12,779	1,685	13.2

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of an alcohol treatment requirement in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such requirements were in force on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such requirements made in respect of persons of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group were (i) made, (ii) completed in full and (iii) breached by non-compliance in each of the last three years. [65568]

Mr Blunt: The alcohol treatment requirement (ATR) of a community order or suspended sentence order is available to courts for offenders who are dependent on alcohol and whose dependency requires and is susceptible to treatment. Treatment costs are generally funded by primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards in Wales and the costs of supporting delivery of the requirement are funded by NOMS through Probation Trusts.

Significant local variations in commissioning practice and costs of treatment modalities have made it difficult to establish the average cost of treatment delivered through an ATR.

Detailed work to cost the services funded by NOMS estimates the average direct cost of supporting delivery of an ATR at £373 per completion. This estimate is subject to a number of assumptions which are detailed in published information that has been placed in both Libraries.

The most recent analysis of the caseload found that on 31 December 2010 there were 5,391 community orders with an ATR and 2,733 suspended sentence orders with an ATR in force.

The following table shows the number of ATR commencements, successful completions, and revocations for non-compliance following breach proceedings broken down by age and gender in each of the last three years for which full information is available[1]. Data on the number of applications made for a summons or warrant to return the offender to court for breach is not collected centrally by type of requirement.

72% of offenders successfully completed ATRs in 2009-10[2]. This Government will create greater flexibility for the provision of ATRs to ensure that people who meet the threshold receive the treatment and rehabilitation they need to tackle their substance misuse.

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[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

[2] Ministry of Justice (2011) National Offender Management Service Annual Report 2009-10: Management Information Addendum. London:

Number of alcohol treatment requirements (ATRs) commenced, successfully completed and revoked for failure to comply 2008-10

		Male							
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*
2008									
Community Order	Commencements	402	555	597	1,193	849	239	43	3,878
	Completions	104	157	150	339	239	84	13	1,086
	Revoked (failure to comply)	4	10	12	14	7	2	0	49
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	188	245	289	492	305	93	26	1,638
	Completions	42	97	94	146	115	33	7	534
	Revoked (failure to comply)	3	10	3	13	2	2	0	33
2009									
Community order	Commencements	512	810	913	1,510	1,210	387	74	5,416
	Completions	196	308	361	710	552	161	28	2,316
	Revoked (failure to comply)	14	17	16	24	21	5	1	98
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	232	388	420	697	496	142	24	2,399
	Completions	80	150	154	331	204	75	11	1,005
	Revoked (Failure to comply)	8	7	12	16	3	1	1	48
2010									
Community order	Commencements	364	667	824	1,524	1,140	351	59	4,929
	Completions	179	360	430	836	682	214	49	2,750
	Revoked (failure to comply)	13	26	23	30	26	7	2	127
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	142	369	401	647	500	137	34	2,230
	Completions	77	197	235	388	275	98	13	1,283
	Revoked (failure to comply)	7	7	9	11	8	0	0	42

		Female								
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*	*Total*
2008										
Community order	Commencements	94	90	121	229	197	46	8	785	4,663
	Completions	27	22	39	80	78	17	0	263	1,349
	Revoked (failure to comply)	4	1	2	4	4	1	0	16	65
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	43	20	42	56	63	16	3	243	1,881
	Completions	12	12	10	25	25	4	3	91	625
	Revoked (failure to comply)	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	36
2009										
Community order	Commencements	123	144	143	331	264	55	9	1,069	6,485
	Completions	44	53	62	131	128	28	5	451	2,767
	Revoked (failure to comply)	3	2	5	11	3	1	0	25	123
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	34	56	56	104	87	25	2	364	2,763
	Completions	14	18	18	47	63	13	1	174	1,179

		Female								
		18-20	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All*	*Total*
	Revoked (Failure to comply)	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	6	54
2010										
Community order	Commencements	88	111	133	301	303	73	11	1,020	5,949
	Completions	49	57	91	185	182	42	1	607	3,357
	Revoked (failure to comply)	4	4	9	8	3	1	1	30	157
Suspended sentence order	Commencements	34	45	45	104	102	25	4	359	2,589
	Completions	23	27	24	56	53	10	3	196	1,479
	Revoked (failure to comply)	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	9	51

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was collected from people who breached their bail conditions where a surety was given in order for bail to be granted in the most recent year for which information is available. [64991]

Mr Blunt: During financial year April 2010 to March 2011, there were a total of 45 breaches of bail conditions (securities only) amounting to forfeiture of £179,560.86. There were no forfeitures of bail conditions where surety was given.

This was recovered in full from bail deposits (lodged) paid directly into the HMCTS Bail Deposit bank account.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people currently released on bail in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough. [65214]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people bailed between 19 May 2011 and 5 July 2011 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* the west midlands. [65215]

Mr Blunt: The latest data on bail published by the Ministry of Justice are available up to December 2010. A quarterly update of the main findings up to March 2011 will be published on 25 August 2011.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. It also holds information on whether those defendants were remanded in custody or granted bail during proceedings at magistrates courts and the Crown court. It is not possible to determine from these data how many defendants are released on bail at any particular point in time.

Birmingham Prison: Redundancy

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to enable those who lose their jobs at HMP Birmingham to access alternative vacancies at HMP Birmingham. [65979]

Mr Blunt: Staff at HMP Birmingham are subject to TUPE transfer to the new provider, G4S, with effect from 1 October 2011. Discussions with recognised trades unions on the detail of this transfer are on-going. For a time-limited period ahead of the transfer date, staff at HMP Birmingham are entitled to apply for any advertised vacancy in other public sector prisons or civil service locations. G4S is also discussing redeployment opportunities within G4S with staff and trades unions.

Courts: Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court enforcement officers were employed by HM Courts Service in each year since 2005. [65227]

Mr Djanogly: The number of court enforcement officers employed in HM Courts Service in at the start of each financial year since 2005 is shown in the following table.

	Number
2005	561
2006	575
2007	541
2008	492
2009	497
2010	453
2011	396

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on departmental carbon emissions, what the installed kilowatt capacity will be of the two solar photovoltaic installations at Leeds Combined Court Centre and Aberystwyth Law Courts. [64976]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice installed a solar photovoltaic installation at Leeds Combined Court Centre in 2010. The installed kilowatt capacity of the installation is 15.12 kW with a declared net capacity for the purposes of the feed in tariff of 13.5 kW. Between 1 June 2010 and 30 May 2011 Leeds Combined Courthouse has generated 9.5 MW of electricity, for onsite consumption, from its solar photovoltaic array.

The project situated in a city centre location, involved placing free standing self cleaning solar panels on a recently refurbished roof making use of areas not affected by shade.

The building at Y Lanfa, which is to become the new Aberystwyth Law Courts, is currently undergoing a period of extensive refurbishment. Because of the roof lights and dormer windows, we are unable to use solar capture but in order to minimise energy consumption, in conjunction with the preferred contractor, alternative sustainable options are being considered.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64682]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The number of Ministry of Justice officials who have been dismissed for under-performance are as follows: 86 officials in financial year 2008-09; 97 officials in financial year 2009-10 and 59 officials in financial year 2010-11.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65305]

(2) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in, one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65322]

(3) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65345]

Mr Djanogly: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010 my Department neither introduced nor removed any regulations with regulatory impact.

In the six months after 1 September my Department introduced one regulatory measure with regulatory impact that imposes costs on business: The Legal Services Act 2007 (Levy) (No.2) Rules 2010.

The running costs of the Legal Services Board for 2010-11 are around £4.7 million. These costs are apportioned to approved regulators in accordance with the number of authorised persons they regulate. The funding of these costs is entirely at the discretion of the approved regulators, whether they treat it as a fixed overhead or recharge it to members.

The Office for Legal Complaints did not become operational until October 2010, annual costs are estimated to be £19.9 million.

The Ministry of Justice had no regulatory measures within the scope of the one-in, one-out regulatory management system.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64425]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice endeavour to accommodate requests to meet with hon. Members of the House wherever possible and appropriate. The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record instances where meeting requests have been declined and the work involved in searching records to attempt to assemble this information would exceed the cost limit for answering PQs.

Drug Interventions Programme

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the Drug Interventions Programme on re-offending rates. [64159]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has responsibility for the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP).

The most recently published research from 2007 showed that the level of proven offending of a selected cohort (of 7,727 individuals) identified through DIP declined by 26% when comparing the six months prior to contact with the six months following DIP contact.

More recent information looks at individuals entering the DIP following a positive drug test in police custody. Those testing positive for the Specified Class A drugs (heroin and or cocaine/crack) between January and March 2009 committed on average 1.9 offences during the 12 months following their drug test. This level of offending was 11% lower than for the equivalent group in 2008 (who committed 2.14 offences on average). The majority of those entering DIP do so following a positive drug test result.

European Court of Human Rights: Reform

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Government to outline its proposals for reform of the European Court of Human Rights as part of the UK's chairmanship agenda for the Council of Europe. [64713]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government have stated its intention to make reform of the ECtHR a priority for the UK Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which it will assume in November 2011. In particular, as I stated at the Izmir Conference on the future of the ECtHR, we need to strengthen the principle of subsidiarity, recognising that States are primarily responsible for implementing the Convention, and to find better ways for the Court to focus quickly, efficiently and transparently on the important cases that require its attention. The Government will set out its full proposals for the Chairmanship in due course.

Harassment: Prosecutions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people who breached an injunction under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* not proceeded against in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [65721]

(2) how many people proceeded against for breach of an injunction under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were *(a)* found guilty and *(b)* found not guilty in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and what the subsequent outcomes were for those offenders found guilty; [65722]

(3) how many people proceeded against under Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 where a crime was recorded and subsequently proceeded with in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [65723]

(4) how many people proceeded against under Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 where a crime was recorded and subsequently not proceeded with in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [65724]

(5) how many people proceeded against under Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 where a crime was recorded were *(a)* found guilty and *(b)* found not guilty in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and what the subsequent outcomes were of those offenders found guilty. [65725]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales for 2009 and 2010 can be viewed in the table.

Police recorded crime statistics come within the remit of The Home Office. Offences recorded under the Protection of Harassment Act 1997 are included within their offence classification of 'Harassment' and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification. It is therefore not possible to identify those Section 4 offences which are recorded and subsequently not proceeded with.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 2009 and 2010[1,2]

Statute Protection from Harassment Act 1997	2009 Proceeded against	Acquitted[3]	Found guilty	Sentenced[4]
Section 3	65	1	27	27
Section 4	1,519	146	787	780

Statute Protection from Harassment Act 1997	2009 Sentence breakdown Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with[5]
Section 3	—	7	3	7	5	4	1
Section 4	2	31	15	267	194	170	101

Protection from Harassment Act 1997	2010 Proceeded against	Acquitted[3]	Found guilty	Sentenced[4]
Section 3	68	4	29	29
Section 4	1,465	147	797	796

Statute Protection from Harassment Act 1997	2010 Sentence breakdown Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with[5]
Section 3	—	2	7	12	1	6	1
Section 4	—	28	12	294	212	149	101

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Acquitted includes: Discharged and Dismissed at magistrates courts and Acquitted at the Crown Court.

[4] The found guilty and sentenced columns may be lower than those proceeded against as, excluding those acquitted, it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year or found guilty of a different offence than that proceeded against.

[5] The category Otherwise Dealt With (ODW) includes: one day in police cells; disqualification order; restraining order; confiscation order; travel restriction order; disqualification from driving; recommendation for deportation; and other miscellaneous disposals.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65303]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice shares responsibility with the Home Office for supporting adult victims of human trafficking.

We have contributed to the forthcoming Government strategy on human trafficking, which places particular emphasis on improving the care offered to victims of this abhorrent crime. Our commitment to this is demonstrated by the fact that funding to support adult victims of trafficking has been secured and set at £2 million a year for the next two years, funded equally between the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

We have also introduced a new model for supporting adult victims of trafficking, whereby a central contractor has responsibility for overseeing and co-ordinating the provision of care, contracting with specialist providers as appropriate. This new model, which came into operation on 1 July, will make it easier to provide tailored support to victims, taking account of their particular needs. It will also be easier to track victims through the system and monitor the quality of service provided.

Prison Service: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of HM Prison Service were entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such staff received a salary greater than £25,900 per year; and what the total cost to the public purse was of employing such staff on such duties. [65985]

Mr Blunt: As at 1 July 2011, there are 17 employees of the National Offender Management Service (which includes HM Prison Service) that are entitled to work full-time as trade union representatives, of which 16 receive a salary of greater than £25,900. The total cost of employing these individuals is estimated to be £534,436.

Facility agreements between the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and each union outline the maximum hours to be made available for staff across NOMS in order to carry out their trade union duties and activities.

The current facility agreement with the Prison Officers Association provides paid facilities for up to eight hours each week for the Chair and Secretary of all local branches.

For the Public and Commercial Services Union, there are 14 employees who are entitled to work part-time on trade union activities for three days a week. There are also other local representatives who are entitled to work part-time on union duties on an ad hoc basis of a number of days a year.

Facility agreements with other unions allow up to 25 days per year for members of union executive committees.

All of these agreements have been recently reviewed and are being renegotiated with trade unions. This work will reduce the total spend on facility time to 0.2% of the NOMS paybill in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and will reduce the number of full-time representatives to zero. These changes will take effect by the end of 2011.

Prisons: Employment

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a private company bidding for unpaid work will be required to honour existing trade union recognition agreements. [65726]

Mr Blunt: Regulation 6 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 shall apply to any transfer of staff to a private company who is successful in bidding for work previously delivered by another provider.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether private sector providers will be required to provide placements for *(a)* women, *(b)* people with disabilities and *(c)* individuals from ethnic minorities in respect of bidding for unpaid work. [65727]

Mr Blunt: Successful bidders from both the private sector and probation trusts will be required to demonstrate that their proposed operating models are able to meet the particular needs of *(a)* women, *(b)* people with disabilities and *(c)* individuals from ethnic minorities who are sentenced to unpaid work.

The Specification and Community Payback Operating Manual contain mandatory actions and guidance in relation to the provision of Community Payback for women offenders, people with disabilities and individuals from ethnic minorities.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance the National Offender Management Service has provided to private sector providers in respect of bidding for unpaid work. [65728]

Mr Blunt: The competitions for Community Payback (unpaid work) are being run under Public Contracts Regulations 2006. As such care is taken to ensure that all bidders are treated fairly. Any material advice or information from the Ministry of Justice/NOMS to assist bidders understanding and response is published via the Emptoris Electronic Procurement Sourcing System.

Public Order Offences: Prosecutions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for offences of insulting words or behaviour under Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year since 2006. [65507]

Mr Blunt: Persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in England and Wales, 2006 to 2010 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986[1], England and Wales, 2006-10[2,3]

Statute	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Public Order Act 1986, section 5	29,211	30,932	28,177	26,500	24,248

[1] Offences include:
Use threatening words/behaviour likely to cause harassment/alarm/distress
Racially aggravated harassment—writing
Religiously aggravated harassment/alarm/distress—words
Racially/religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress—words

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Unpaid Fines

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the monetary value of outstanding fines for criminal offences imposed by courts in England and Wales. [65228]

Mr Djanogly: As at the end of May 2011 the balance outstanding for financial penalties was £609,516,266.

This amount includes fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts, prosecutor costs, compensation orders, victims surcharge and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices and penalty notices which are transferred to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service for enforcement. The amount outstanding also includes the balance of accounts which are being paid by agreed payment plans.

Young Offenders: Death

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people have died while under supervision in the community by youth offending teams in *(a)* 2011 to date and *(b)* each of the last five years. [61457]

Mr Blunt: The number of deaths in the community during the period 2006 to 2011 are provided in the following table:

	Deaths in England and Wales
2006 and 2007	32
2008[1]	32
2009	32
2010	23
2011 (to 31 May)	13

[1] The figure for 2008 includes one individual who died over the age of 19 but had continued to be under the supervision of a youth offending team.

These figures relate to incidents reported to the YJB—Youth Justice Board—from youth offending teams (YOTs) across England and Wales where a young person has died in the community while under the supervision of a YOT.

We have sought information from the Office for National Statistics about the number of deaths of young people aged 10 to 18 in the general population in England and Wales over the same period. As a rough measure these figures indicate that the percentage of deaths of young people under YOT supervision as a proportion of the numbers of young people in the youth justice system and the number of deaths of 10-18 year olds as a proportion of the general 10-18 population are broadly similar.

However, the information provided by the ONS should be treated with caution and is provided by way of context only. It does not provide an exact comparison.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has issued any advice to *(a)* cultural organisations *(b)* cultural venues, *(c)* media organisations, *(d)* sport organisations and *(e)* sport venues on the generation of low-carbon energy on their estates. [65414]

John Penrose: This Department has not issued any advice to cultural organisations, cultural venues, media organisations, sports organisations and sports venues on the generation of low-carbon energy on their estates.

Arts: Fund Raising

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase the ability of arts organisations with no previous experience of fundraising to generate such funding. [65217]

Mr Vaizey: This Department is working in close partnership with Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund to boost fundraising skills across the culture sector. I welcome the Arts Council's announcement on 29 June of the Catalyst Arts fund, which will include £7 million to support arts organisations with less experience to build their fundraising capacity. Awards ranging from £15,000 - £25,000 will provide individual organisations, or those working together, with the tools and skills to begin to raise, or increase, their private income.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the timetable for the roll-out of broadband in rural areas. [64696]

Mr Vaizey: The Government remain committed to stimulating commercial investment to provide the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the capacity of unused television spectrum devices to *(a)* provide broadband access to rural areas and *(b)* offload broadband demand in urban areas. [65263]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* I have not made an assessment as this is a matter for Ofcom as the independent spectrum regulator. There are trials of devices that the hon. Member refers to, known as white space devices, which are under way to see if they can safely coexist with existing users. One recently launched in Cambridge. But it would be difficult for Ofcom to make any meaningful assessment of the use of white spaces in assisting with existing broadband coverage or capacity until the results of those trials become known.

Broadband: Satellite Communications

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the potential for satellite broadband technology to meet demand for high-speed internet access; [65815]

(2) what contribution he expects satellite broadband technology to make to the deployment of super-fast broadband. [65816]

Mr Vaizey: No assessment has been made. The Government's objective of having the best superfast broadband network in Europe, with superfast broadband to 90% of all UK premises, and standard broadband to virtually every community in the UK, would be delivered through a mixed technology solution including satellite.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to assess the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on its estate. [65416]

John Penrose: This Department has no current plans to assess the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on its estate.

Media Ownership

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the contribution of the Attorney-General of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1542, what progress he has made on his considerations of News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [65593]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* On 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, I announced that I was minded to refer News Corporation's proposed merger with BSkyB to the Competition Commission in the absence of any specific undertakings in lieu. News Corporation duly offered undertakings on which I have consulted. On Monday, News Corporation withdrew those undertakings and as a result I have decided to refer the proposed merger to the Competition Commission.

Olympic Games 2012: Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the plans for the London 2012 Olympics include the generation of low-carbon energy at any events or venues. [65415]

Hugh Robertson: The Games-time energy mix will come from mains electricity; on-site temporary power generation; and local low carbon energy sources, including photovoltaics (PVs), and small scale wind turbines.

The venues on the Olympic Park have been designed to be energy efficient in operation, maximising use of natural ventilation and lighting. The Park Energy Centre will provide low carbon cooling, heating and power in Games-time, and over the longer term post-Games, from biomass boilers and a combined cooling, heating and power (CCHP) plant which can be converted to use lower and zero carbon fuels as these technologies develop.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support the seaside tourism industry. [65223]

John Penrose: The seaside remains an important part of the visitor economy, accounting for some 24 million domestic overnight trips and almost £4.6 billion in overnight visitor spend across the UK in 2010. The VisitEngland website gives wide coverage to the coast, and the seaside also features in themed promotions through print and electronic media and related marketing activity. Government's tourism strategy includes the aim of growing the value of the domestic tourism market, and coastal destinations and attractions can contribute significantly to this objective. The British Resorts and Destinations Association and other industry members have been working with VisitEngland to develop a Coastal Resorts Action Plan. This will focus on transforming perceptions of product and experience; coastal resort infrastructure; co-ordinated activities and events to grow tourism value; and building better intelligence and data.

Tourism: North-East

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to promote tourism in the north-east. [65224]

John Penrose: I had the opportunity to visit the north-east in June, during which I held meetings with local industry representatives to discuss the opportunities for tourism growth and development.

Over the next four years VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme, which will capitalise on the international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's diamond jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme aims to attract four million extra visitors, spending £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, funded by the public and private sector.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is co-ordinated through the national strategic framework for tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector. VisitEngland is currently working with destinations across the country, including in the north-east, on a campaign to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation.

'The time to be in England' initiative will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, including the Queens diamond jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic games, helping to spread the benefits of the games beyond London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth. The campaign is the subject of a bid to the second round of the regional growth fund.

Tourism policy seeks to help improve the sector's productivity and competitiveness, in particular, to address the burden of regulation affecting the industry. The Government's Red Tape Challenge focused on the hospitality sector in May, inviting the industry and the public to identify regulations holding back the industry and stifling growth. Alongside this, the Government have set up an industry task force, led by senior industry figures, to identify rules, regulations and inspections impeding the sector, and which might be cut, modified or abolished.

The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

PRIME MINISTER

Andrew Coulson

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish each document relating to the appointment of Mr Andrew Coulson as Director of Communications at 10 Downing street. [65905]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed in accordance with the terms of the "Model Contract for Special Advisers and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what subjects Mr Andrew Coulson had access to classified material; [65990]

(2) whether Mr Andrew Coulson had access to *(a)* classified and *(b)* highly classified material relating to (i) defence matters, (ii) operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, (iii) domestic security matters and (iv) other foreign policy matters; [65991]

(3) what level of security clearance Mr Andrew Coulson had whilst working at Number 10 Downing street; and to what vetting he was subject prior to the issue of such security clearance; [65993]

(4) whether Mr Andrew Coulson attended any meetings at which classified material relating to *(a)* defence matters, *(b)* operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, *(c)* domestic security matters and *(d)* foreign policy matters were discussed. [65923]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers carry out their duties in accordance with the "Model Contract for Special Advisers" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers". I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 423W.

Departmental Correspondence

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many emails have been exchanged between officials in his Office and Richard Thaler and since September 2010; [65372]

(2) how many letters have been exchanged between officials in his Office and Richard Thaler since September 2010; [65373]

(3) how many meetings have taken place between officials in his Office and Richard Thaler since September 2010. [65374]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations. This list was published for the first time in October 2010 and is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the new ministerial code. Officials have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 12 May 2011 with regard to Ms R Hughes; and if he will cause an investigation to be conducted into the way letters to him from honourable Members are dealt with. [65673]

The Prime Minister: The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), has replied on my behalf to the letter.

Correspondence received by my Office, including correspondence received from hon. Members, is dealt with in accordance with the Cabinet Office guidance on handing correspondence. A copy of this is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/guidance-handling-government-correspondence

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Bury South of 1 March 2011. [65992]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my letter to him of 17 February 2011 which set out that I do not have a role in this merger.

Media Ownership

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he discussed with Mr Andrew Coulson the allocation of ministerial responsibilities relating to *(a)* media policy and *(b)* the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation; [65988]

(2) whether he discussed *(a)* media policy and *(b)* matters relating to the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation with Mr Andrew Coulson. [65989]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers carry out their duties in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

TRANSPORT

Air Misses

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* collisions and *(b)* near-misses of aircraft above London there were in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [65236]

Mrs Villiers: There were nil collisions and four near-misses above London investigated by the AAIB in 2009. There were nil collisions and two near-misses above London investigated by the AAIB in 2010.

Airports

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 399W, on airports, what proportion of passengers are expected to transfer between flights at any given airport each year for it to be termed a hub airport. [65981]

Mrs Villiers: There is no single widely agreed definition of a hub airport. The Department has not sought to provide a precise definition of a hub airport. However, at Heathrow, 38% of terminal passengers in 2009 transferred between flights.

Airports: Retail Trade

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on the economic value of the airport travel retail business in the UK of the refusal by certain airlines to allow passengers to take goods purchased at the airport onboard the aircraft in addition to their normal airline hand baggage allowance; and if he will make a statement. [65811]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has made no such assessment. The size and amount of cabin or hold baggage that a passenger is permitted to take on board a commercial aircraft is a matter for airlines to decide as private commercial companies.

Aviation: Fuels

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions his Department made in respect of the price of aviation fuel from 2011 to 2030 when making forecasts for air traffic in its 2003 Air Transport White Paper. [64017]

Mrs Villiers: The air traffic forecasts underpinning the 2003 Air Transport White Paper were set out in "Air Traffic Forecasts for the United Kingdom" published by the previous Government in 2000. Annex 2 of the report provides details of the assumptions used to produce the forecasts, including the assumed price of aviation fuel.

A copy of "Air Traffic Forecasts for the United Kingdom" can be found on the DFT website at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/air-traffic-forecasts-uk-2000/air-traffic-forecasts-uk-2000.pdf

Cycling: Helmets

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to amend guidance in the Highway Code on the wearing of cycle helmets. [63486]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* No.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of procurement is for the introduction of free-flow charging on the Dartford Crossing. [65036]

Mike Penning: Decisions on the procurement of free-flow charging at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing have yet to be taken, and therefore such costs are still to be determined.

Ports: EU Action

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to implement the European State Port Control Directive. [63960]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has implemented a risk-based inspection scheme for foreign-registered vessels calling at UK ports from 1 January 2011 when the directive took effect.

Regulations and supporting documents to transpose provisions of the directive that place duties on the shipping sector have been prepared for consultation with the industry which is expected to begin soon.

Rail Value for Money Review

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the long-term effects of the outcomes of the McNulty review on train lines between Brighton and London. [65720]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received Sir Roy McNulty's final report on the value for money of the railway. The Department will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to agree proposals for the reform of the industry. The Government plan to publish their proposals for the future of the rail industry in November.

Railways: Franchises

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make future bids for rail franchises subject to a demonstrable record of efficiency from prospective bidders. [65270]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), addressed this matter in a statement to the House on 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 520-22, on Sir Roy McNulty's independent study into value for money in the rail industry.

It was made clear in this statement that as a matter of policy for all future franchise competitions that part of the assessment of bidders' capability at the pre-qualification stage will be evidence of success in collaborative working and driving down costs:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110519/debtext/110519-0002.htm#11051950001296

Shipping: Taxation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution his Department has made to the European Commission's review of the European shipping tonnage tax regime. [63970]

Mike Penning: None to date as the Commission has yet to make its proposals known. We await the Commission's proposals with interest.

Congestion Charging

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of traffic congestion charging schemes. [64858]

Norman Baker: The Greater London Authority Act 1999 and Transport Act 2000 gave Transport for London (TfL) and the local London authorities the power to operate congestion charge schemes in London.

The Mayor of London established a congestion charging scheme in 2003. The Mayor is responsible for operational matters and continued assessment of the congestion charging scheme in London.

A local congestion charging scheme is also operational in Durham.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ministerial Meetings

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department have attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66008]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended with Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66011]

Mr Paterson: I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House today.

As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

Independent International Commission on Decommissioning

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse was of the work of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning since its commencement. [65197]

Mr Paterson: The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning running costs are shared equally between the British and Irish Governments. The total cost to the British and Irish Governments from inception to closure was £12,215,884 with the British Government contributing £6,107,942.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Support for Women: Developing Countries

8. **Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid was allocated to supporting women and girls in the developing world in the latest period for which figures are available. [65543]

Mr Duncan: The Government have put girls and women at the heart of international development. We are supporting girls and women through our 27 country programmes and we have announced £10 million each year core funding to UN Women, making us the second largest donor. Since achieving results for girls and women spans DFID's entire portfolio, it is not possible to disaggregate a precise figure for aid allocated to supporting girls and women.

Somalia

9. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the humanitarian situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [65544]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: 2.8 million people—one in three Somalis—are in need of emergency relief. There are around 725,000 refugees in the region. Over 3,000 refugees a day are arriving in camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, and acute child malnutrition among new arrivals is at more than double emergency levels.

13. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to Somalia in relation to the drought in the horn of Africa. [65548]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: This year in Somalia we are supporting treatment of acute malnutrition for 100,000 children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers, vaccinations to more than 1.3 million people; clean water for 350,000 people; shelter or non food items for 50,000 people; and emergency agricultural or livelihood inputs for 250,000 people. We continue to monitor the situation very closely and are considering what further action is needed.

World Population Day

10. **Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department took to mark world population day on 11 July 2011. [65545]

Mr O'Brien: On world population day I spoke at a reception organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health.

UNFPA are using this year's population day to launch "7 billion actions" ahead of the world population reaching 7 billion on 31 October. Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, executive director of UNFPA will visit DFID next week to discuss the issues.

South Sudan

11. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that aid continues to reach South Sudan. [65546]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I opened the DFID office in Juba in November. Our programme will deliver education, health, infrastructure, capacity building and humanitarian support to the people of the Republic of South Sudan. We have committed £90 million a year to South Sudan for the next four years.

Post-conflict Planning: Libya

12. **Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department is undertaking to support post-conflict planning for Libya. [65547]

14. **Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department is undertaking to support post-conflict planning for Libya. [65549]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Post-conflict planning must be Libyan owned and UN led. The UK has taken steps to support this process by deploying an International Stabilisation Response Team to Benghazi. We stand ready to respond to the needs of the Libyan people working with international partners in a coordinated and effective way.

Palestine

15. **James Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of development support to the Palestinian Authority. [65550]

Mr Duncan: The UK strongly supports the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to develop public institutions and deliver essential services to Palestinian people. I was therefore pleased to sign a Memorandum of Understanding last week. This makes a strong UK commitment to supporting the Palestinian Authority, which is committed to non-violent pursuit of a negotiated two state solution.

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its access to work programme. [65045]

Mr Duncan: None of our disabled staff members are being supported under the access to work programme within the Department for International Development.

Ministerial Government Departments are not eligible for access to work funding; all costs of reasonable adjustments to support disabled people are met from DFID's central administration budget.

Departmental Consultants

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any external consultants have been engaged for his Department's aid reviews; and what the cost was of such consultants. [65035]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The panel of development experts who helped scrutinise the country offers for the bilateral aid review did so without payment as a public service. Two leading experts in international development were appointed as external peer reviewers for the multilateral aid review at a cost of £20,000.

The humanitarian emergency response review was an independent review chaired by Lord Ashdown who did not receive remuneration for his role. He was supported by an advisory board of 15 experts who did not receive remuneration. The external assistance that involved a cost was limited to a seconded staff member from the Development Assistance Research Associates working on the review 50% of their time at a cost of £52,500; a full-time humanitarian consultant to support the DFID Review Secretariat at a cost of £67,200 and a part-time assistant to Lord Ashdown at a cost of £21,000.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65314]

(2) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65331]

(3) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65348]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has not introduced any regulations between 1 March 2010 and 1 March 2011. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), is not responsible for any regulations that are currently in force.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has assessed the effects of implementation of proposed changes on Employment-Related Settlement, tier 5 and overseas domestic workers on medical trainees and practitioners in developing countries; and what recent discussions he has had on this matter with the *(a)* Secretary of State for the Home Department, *(b)* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and *(c)* Secretary of State for Health. [64640]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is aware of the proposed changes on Employment-Related Settlement, tier 5 and overseas domestic workers. The consultation document was published on 9 June and represents an agreed Government approach to reviewing the routes by which migrants can enter the UK to work. DFID is working with other Government Departments to consider the effects of implementation, and is liaising closely with the Department of Health who lead the consultation to assess potential impact on health professionals coming to the UK.

East Africa: Droughts

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people affected by the drought in East Africa. [65439]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: According to UN estimates, around 10 million people in the horn of Africa are currently in need of humanitarian assistance and emergency levels of acute malnutrition are widespread. About half of those in need of assistance are in Ethiopia, 2.8 million are affected in Somalia and 2.5 million in Kenya. This is the most severe food security emergency in the world today.

Forests: Satellite Communications

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is funding the use of earth observation satellite technology to monitor and tackle deforestation in the Congo Basin. [65814]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development is helping tackle deforestation in the Congo Basin through support to the African Development Bank managed Congo Basin Forest Fund (the CBFF) and the Congo Basin Forestry Start-up Fund.

The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) is currently funding one project that is using remote-sensing data from satellite technology to determine the carbon stocks of forests in the Republic of Congo. The project is led by be World Resources Institute (WRI), in partnership with Republic of Congo Government and local institutions.

DFID established the Congo Basin Forestry Start-up Fund in 2008, before the CBFF became operational. It was originally intended that support to earth observation satellite technology would be included within its portfolio of activities. However this element of the programme has not been implemented.

HIV Infection: Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* integrate HIV and TB services and *(b)* support testing for HIV and screening for TB in countries where HIV and TB are prevalent. [64935]

Mr O'Brien: Scaling up access to HIV and TB diagnosis, treatment, care and support, including early infant diagnosis, within integrated services is listed as one of the UK's strategic priorities in the recently published position paper on HIV: "Towards zero infections". We will continue to focus on both HIV and TB in countries where they are prevalent, and on strengthening the underlying health systems in order to improve the way health services diagnose and treat illnesses, including TB and TB-HIV co-infection.

Our multilateral support to the new UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) will also promote the strengthening of country systems to increase access to antiretroviral therapy and implement collaborative TB/HIV activities, including HIV testing for TB patients and TB screening for people living with HIV.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65770]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID)'s contribution to the Government's action against human trafficking will be set out in the new human trafficking strategy. DFID's most important contribution is our work to tackle the root causes of human trafficking in poor countries such as poverty, lack of economic opportunities, and social exclusion. For example, DFID has one of the largest bilateral programmes on social protection, directly helping very poor people in over 15 developing countries.

DFID also supports projects which are specifically designed to prevent human trafficking. We support the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking Project, run by the Salvation Army, which aims to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children in Malawi who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked. In Bangladesh we have supported a police reform programme which has recently established a Human Trafficking Investigations Unit. In Uganda, we have supported UNICEF to help identify and support trafficked women and children in the northern Karamoja region. DFID is currently developing a new regional programme which will aim to reduce the numbers of women and girls trafficked in the south Asia region.

Japan: Earthquakes

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to Japan following the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. [65159]

Mr Duncan: Following the earthquake and tsunami DFID immediately deployed a 59 strong Search and Rescue team at a cost of £889,174. DFID also provided 100 tonnes of bottled water, sourced from Hong Kong, at a cost of £232,443. These responses helped to fill the gaps in humanitarian need that Japan found difficult to meet itself and were specifically requested by Japan.

Malawi: Overseas Aid

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision not to increase direct aid to Malawi on food security for that country's poorest citizens. [65205]

Mr O'Brien: In his announcement of DFID's Bilateral Aid Review to the House on 1 March 2011 the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), indicated his intention to increase UK aid funding to Malawi over the four years to 2014-15.

Since then we have become increasingly concerned about economic management and governance in Malawi. The Secretary of State has raised these concerns with the Government of Malawi, and concluded that, until there are changes in Government of Malawi policy we can no longer justify the provision of general budget support to the Government of Malawi.

However, we are determined to continue funding programmes that protect the poor. DFID support has helped improve food security for over seven million people a year by providing them with high yielding maize and legume seeds via the Farm Input Subsidy programme. We are currently considering how best to continue support to improve food security in Malawi.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision not to increase direct aid to Malawi on the provision of health-care in that country. [65206]

Mr O'Brien: In his announcement of DFID's Bilateral Aid Review to the House on 1 March 2011 the Secretary of State indicated his intention to increase UK aid funding to Malawi over the four years to 2014-15.

Since then we have become increasingly concerned about economic management and governance in Malawi. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has raised these concerns with the Government of Malawi, and concluded that, until there are changes in Government of Malawi policy we can no longer justify the provision of general budget support to the Government of Malawi.

However, we are determined to continue funding programmes that protect the poor. DFID support to strengthen the health service in Malawi has helped save the lives of 3,200 pregnant women and 40,000 children since 2004. We are currently considering how best to continue support to improve the provision of health-care in Malawi.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision not to increase direct aid to Malawi on the production of maize crops in that country. [65207]

Mr O'Brien: In his announcement of DFID's Bilateral Aid Review to the House on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 167-169, the Secretary of State for International Development indicated his intention to increase UK aid funding to Malawi over the four years to 2014-15.

Since then we have become increasingly concerned about economic management and governance in Malawi. The Secretary of State has raised these concerns with the Government of Malawi, and concluded that, until there are changes in Government of Malawi policy we can no longer justify the provision of general budget support to the Government of Malawi.

However, we are determined to continue funding programmes that protect the poor. DFID support has helped improve food security for over 7 million people a year by providing them with high-yielding maize and legume seeds via the Farm Input Subsidy Programme. We are currently considering how best to continue support to improve the production of maize crops in Malawi.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on direct aid to Malawi. [65208]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has had regular contact with the Foreign Secretary in relation to the review of the UK's relationship with Malawi, including the aid programme.

Overseas Aid

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that aid programmes are directed towards those countries who are in greatest need; and what plans he has for the future of the aid programme to India. [65154]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department has recently conducted a full review of bilateral aid. Future bilateral support will be focused on twenty seven countries where the need is greatest and we can make the most impact.

I have frozen the India programme at current levels (£280 million/year) until 2015. Over the next four years, the India programme will focus more tightly on the poorest states. Our goal will be to help the poorest women and girls get quality schooling, health-care, nutrition and jobs to break the cycle of poverty for the next generation. We will also devote a progressively rising proportion of our programme to promoting pro-poor investment through the private sector.

Somalia: Refugees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to those in the Dadaab refugee camp on the Kenya-Somalia border. [65440]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports there are now more than 394,000 Somali refugees in Kenya, 90% of them in the Dadaab refugee camps.

UK, helped to meet the basic relief needs of 20,000 refugees by providing £2 million, to UNHCR during 2010-11. Given the deteriorating situation we are urgently considering increasing our support in 2011.

Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what targets his Department has set for reducing tuberculosis deaths of people with *(a)* HIV- and *(b)* non HIV-related tuberculosis. [64778]

Mr O'Brien: As highlighted in "UK aid: Changing lives, delivering results", the coalition Government are committed to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis deaths by 2015, In relation to deaths from TB in people living with HIV, in the coalition Government's recently launched Towards zero infections: The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world' we committed to contribute to the UNAIDS and Stop TB Partnership's goal of reducing HIV-related TB among people living with HIV by 50% by 2015. We will do this through multilateral and bilateral support to help deliver the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis 2011-15.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has set to reduce multi-drug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in developing countries. [64933]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government recognises that drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis (TB) pose serious threats to achieving the goals of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15. We are therefore working with our partners to ensure that prompt quality diagnosis and effective treatment is available to those who need it.

Our support includes a 20 year commitment to UNITAID, the international facility for the purchase of drugs against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB, of up to €60 million per year subject to performance. UNITAID aims to triple access to rapid tests for multi-drug resistant TB and to significantly reduce the price of drug-resistant TB medicines. We also fund research to: develop easier to use diagnostics for drug resistant TB; new TB medicines; and in the longer-term, effective TB vaccines. We also fund operational research to improve health service delivery to diagnose and treat people with drug resistant TB.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what strategies his Department has to *(a)* prevent and *(b)* treat non-HIV related TB. [64934]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis (TB) deaths by 2015, as highlighted in 'UK aid: Changing lives, delivering results'. We will help increase access to effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB through our bilateral and multilateral support, particularly through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, and through supporting co-ordinated action through the Stop TB Partnership; through our investments in research and product development into more effective treatment and vaccines; through our support to countries to strengthen health systems to deliver quality TB programmes; and working with our partners to tackle the risk factors for TB, including poverty and malnutrition.

UN Women

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he plans to provide to the UN Women agency; and if he will make a statement. [64771]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has strongly supported UN Women from the outset, lobbying hard for its creation, providing transitional funding as it established itself and agreeing to a senior staff secondment. Following adoption of UN Women's strategic plan on 30 June the UK will provide £10 million in core funding to UN Women for each of the next two years. This will help UN Women achieve results for girls and women that include helping 15 countries adopt legislation to tackle domestic violence, supporting efforts to allow women to participate in political decision-making in 25 countries and holding the UN system to account on gender equality.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bombardier: Redundancy

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on support for those to be made redundant from Bombardier in Derby. [65794]

Chris Grayling: Following the recent announcement by Bombardier that the company was planning to make job losses at its factory in Derby, an Economic Response taskforce has been set up by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. It includes Jobcentre Plus, the Skills Funding Agency, Derby city council and representatives of local training providers.

The taskforce had its first meeting on Friday 8 July and is exploring ways in which those facing redundancy can access other skilled jobs in the region.

Carer's Allowance: Islwyn

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many carers in Islwyn constituency currently in receipt of carer's allowance will be affected by the planned introduction of the universal credit. [65646]

Chris Grayling: We continue to recognise the contribution made by carers and so carer's allowance is to remain payable as a separate benefit outside of universal credit.

We will have an additional element within universal credit to recognise carers, similar to the carer premium currently payable within income-related benefits.

Entitlement to universal credit will depend on a number of factors (such as earnings, family circumstances, housing costs). Departmental modelling estimates that around three-quarters of households where someone is receiving carer's allowance across Great Britain will be entitled to current benefits replaced by universal credit, or universal credit, in steady-state. However, due to sample size we cannot provide this information at a constituency level.

Departmental ICT

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the original estimate, at current prices, was of the cost to the public purse of the computer system built for his Department by EDS Systems and Microsoft; what the final cost, at current prices, was at the time of completion; and whether additional costs have been incurred since completion. [65625]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because the Department for Work and Pensions has a large number of IT systems to support delivery of the Government's Welfare and Pensions reform agenda, to transact business more efficiently and improve customer service and it is not possible to identify which specific computer system is being referred to.

Disability Living Allowance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what policies and procedures his Department has put in place to ensure timely processing of *(a)* applications for disability living allowance and *(b)* appeal tribunals against decisions made regarding disability living allowance. [64787]

Maria Miller: We are working to remove unnecessary steps in the disability living allowance (DLA) application process as identified by customers and frontline staff. This has led to substantial improvements in timeliness—at the end of June 2011 the average waiting time to process an application for DLA was 21.7 days. This compares to 25.1 days in June 2010.

We are also working together with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, who has responsibility for appeals tribunals, and the judiciary to improve the appeals process for our customers. HMCTS has increased capacity and now clears 38% more appeals in April 2011 than April 2010, and 65% more than April 2009.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of abolishing the upper age limit for claiming the mobility component of disability living allowance. [65706]

Maria Miller: The information is not available.

There are no reliable data available on which estimates could be made of the number of people 65 and over who might be entitled to the mobility component of disability living allowance, if they were to make a claim. Entitlement to the mobility component of disability living allowance can only be established when a claim is made and the actual mobility needs of the individual are assessed.

Disabled: Children

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of disabled children who will have their weekly benefits reduced as a result of his welfare reform measures. [65284]

Maria Miller: With regard to the universal credit, the Government have agreed a package of transitional protection which will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of change as a direct result of the migration to universal credit, where circumstances remain the same.

With regard to the introduction of personal independence payments, it is our intention, in the first instance, to only reassess individuals of working age—those aged 16-64. We will not extend personal independence payments to new or existing claims for children from 2013. The needs of children are very different to those of adults and we would want to build on our experience of developing and delivering the assessment for claimants of working age before considering children below the age of 16. We will consult on any substantive changes to the arrangements for children.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to support disabled people into employment. [65647]

Maria Miller: We are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in work, regardless of their disability or benefit status.

As part of this commitment, the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a range of employment provision specifically aimed at disabled people:

Work Choice, which was launched in October last year, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work—provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and thus stay in work.

The Department for Work and Pensions also funds residential training for unemployed disabled adults whose needs cannot be met through any other Government funded programmes.

Last month the Work programme rolled out across Great Britain, providing personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people. Contributory ESA customers will be able to volunteer for the Work programme, and if they wish, remain on the programme after their benefit has come to an end, ensuring that they receive all the support they need to help them return to work.

The Work programme will be complemented by a new Jobcentre Plus offer which will allow more flexibility to Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers to judge which interventions will help individual customers, including disabled customers, most cost effectively and meet local need. Jobcentre Plus will continue to work closely with local health services, supported by disability employment advisers and work psychologists.

The Sayce review, "Getting in, staying in and getting on", was published on 9 June 2011. At the time of publication, I confirmed that Government would consult before moving to any decisions on the future strategy for specialist disability employment programmes.

The Government's response and a separate public consultation have been launched through a written statement to the House on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS. A programme of consultation events is planned over the summer, involving a wide range of stakeholders.

Employment Schemes: Richmond

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on the Work programme in Richmond. [65820]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme went live in the contract area covering Richmond from 1 June 2011. The programme is being delivered by three prime providers: Ingeus Deloitte and Reed in Partnership who started delivery on 1 June, Maximus who started delivery on 15 June 2011.

Progress is measured by a range of statistics, including customers referred to provision, as well as the number of sustained job outcomes.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. It is the intention of the Department to publish national statistics on Work programme referrals from spring 2012 and job outcomes from autumn 2012. These timescales take account of the newness of the provision and length of time it will take for sustained job outcomes to be realised.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65304]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to tackling human trafficking, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), will shortly publish a robust new strategy, detailing how we will make further progress. We are determined to build on the UK's strong track record in supporting victims and fighting traffickers. The UK implements key international agreements aimed at improving anti-trafficking efforts across the world. This includes the UN's Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention. Despite the difficult financial climate, Government have also protected funding for victims of trafficking.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), chairs the Social Justice Cabinet Committee, which meets regularly to discuss and reach cross-Government consensus on a number of issues relating to poverty, equality and social justice including the issue of human trafficking.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any closures of jobcentre offices in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* England are planned. [65785]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether any closures of jobcentre offices in (a) the North East and (b) England are planned. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Government has set out an ambitious programme of reform and transformation. The introduction of Universal Credit and the Work Programme, alongside our plans to improve and personalise the services we offer, will provide both significant challenges and opportunities for Jobcentre Plus. We will become a smaller, leaner and more flexible organisation which delivers more of its services over the telephone and Internet.

As we deliver more, of our services over the Internet, and as unemployment falls, so we will free up capacity in our network. Face-to-face contact will reduce as more services can be accessed online and as we simplify the benefit system. Ultimately, these reforms are aimed at delivering a better service in a more efficient manner.

Our Jobcentres will remain central to our operation. The Government's reforms will transform and strengthen the support for people to get back into work. Our prime concern is to ensure that we have a Jobcentre network that is appropriate to deliver the service our customers need, and of course cost effectiveness and productivity will be a factor. Each District has been asked to produce a service delivery plan, mapping how customers in that District will be served in each locality.

No decisions have yet been taken on any closures. Once we have developed our options we will consult with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. We will in addition, undertake full Equality Impact Assessments and actively seek to mitigate, as far as is possible, any potentially adverse impacts. These assessments will be used in our decision making about the future.

Older Workers: Unemployment

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to provide training for unemployed people over the age of 55 years. [65682]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus advisers offer all jobseekers of all ages a comprehensive menu of help including skills provision and job-search support. Advisers have the flexibility to judge which interventions will help jobseekers at the most appropriate point in their claim, tailoring this to individual need.

From the start of the academic year in August 2011, claimants of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance (work-related activity group) will be eligible for fully-funded training to help them into work. In England, providers will be rewarded for providing short units of accredited training, more suitable for Jobcentre Plus claimants, as well as for full qualifications. Jobcentre Plus will work closely with skills providers at a local level to ensure that the training offered meets the needs of both claimants and employers.

The Work programme provides support for those who are more at risk of long-term unemployment. Work programme providers are free to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time. Work programme providers will be paid for getting people into work and keeping them there, which means that there are strong incentives for delivery partners to provide skills training where that support would help a customer move into work and keep them in work.

Personal Income: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the likely effects on the incomes of people with children of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* relationship status in Sunderland of changes in the level of benefits in 2011-12. [65286]

Maria Miller: The information is not available.

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is the Department's primary source of information for data on incomes and benefit receipt. FRS statistics and the Department's modelling capability of projected tax and benefit changes, which uses the FRS as its base data, do not allow robust estimates of impacts at the level of disaggregation requested. In addition, the latest available publication of the FRS only relates to the 2009-10 survey year.

Poverty: Children

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in York Central were living in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty (i) in May 2010 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [65616]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household (rather than family) income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as those requested. However, figures at a regional level, for Yorkshire and the Humber are available. Three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable. Therefore information for part (i) is not available.

Statistics covering 2007-08 to 2009-10 are the most recent available.

The following table below shows *(a)* the proportion and number of children living in absolute poverty and *(b)* relative poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the UK, for 2007-08 to 2009-10 in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Numbers and proportions of children living in (a) absolute poverty and (b) relative poverty (BHC) in Yorkshire and the Humber

	Absolute poverty		*Relative poverty*	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number (million)*	*Proportion (%)*
2007-08 to 2009-10	0.2	14	0.3	26

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost rather than an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.
8. Proportions of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Each of the measures is defined as:

Absolute poverty: children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms.

Relative poverty: children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income.

Source:

Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2009/10, DWP

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average take-home income including in-work benefits of households from 2013. [63826]

Chris Grayling: DWP estimates suggest that for households that are in work the median take-home income, including in work benefits, could be approximately £520 a week in 2013-14 (in 2013-14 prices). £520 is an estimate and the exact amount will depend on actual benefit rates in 2013-14.

The costing model used to make this estimate is DWP's Policy Simulation Model (PSM), which is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels. The model is also adjusted for expected changes in the size and composition of the population.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was at current prices of the ICL Pathway contract to build a benefits care payment system. [65624]

Chris Grayling: The Benefit Payment Card Project was cancelled by the previous Government in 1999. Up to the date of cancellation the then benefits agency's expenditure on the project totalled approximately £127 million.

Winter Fuel Payments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in York with at least one person aged 75 years or over received winter fuel payments in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [65622]

Steve Webb: The information for 2009-10 is available in the document 'Winter Fuel Payment (Number of Households) 2009-2010 by Parliamentary Constituency'. This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paqe=wfp

Information for 2010-11 is not currently available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Agricultural Policy

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wycombe, of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 636W, on the common agricultural policy, what plans she has to ensure that the condition of chalk streams is taken into account in responding to climate change challenges as part of her Department's negotiations on future common agricultural policy expenditure. [64718]

Mr Paice: The Government are already working to make the existing Environmental Stewardship provisions within Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme for England more effective through the ongoing 'Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective' project.

Negotiations on CAP reform will start later this year. Future CAP expenditure should tackle the key objectives of encouraging a competitive, sustainable EU agriculture sector able to respond to climate change challenges, reducing reliance on subsidies and focusing resources on the provision of environmental public goods.

Chalk streams are valued for their unique biological and environmental characters, and many are already designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or have other protections.

Improving or preserving the condition of chalk streams is already taken into account in national policy through the establishment of river basin management plans which are required under the water framework directive. This allows regional panels, which include local stakeholders, to work together to design suitable management plans for water bodies in their area.

Recommendation 4 of the Government's response to the Lawton review 'Making Space for Nature', published in June, outlines measures to protect and improve the water environment:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13537-lawton-response-110607.pdf

Under the water framework directive the UK is required to aim to achieve good chemical and ecological status in all inland and coastal waters by 2015.

CABINET OFFICE

Behavioural Insights Team

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what means the success of the Behavioural Insights Team's initiatives will be measured; and how frequently reviews of its performance will take place. [65380]

Mr Maude: The Behavioural Insights Team's quarterly Steering Board reviews progress on a regular basis. In July 2012, the two year anniversary of the team, the Steering Board will consider the team's progress in the round. Success metrics depend on the policy initiative in question, but will include costs to benefits analysis.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the Behavioural Insights Team's budget will be spent on marketing. [65381]

Mr Maude: No proportion of the Behavioural Insights Team budget will be spent on marketing.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many press officers are assigned to the Behavioural Insights Team. [65382]

Mr Maude: The team employs no press officers.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on travel expenses for the Behavioural Insights Team since September 2010. [65383]

Mr Maude: Travel expenses for the team, including travel for unpaid academic advisers, amounted to £8,198.37.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from the Downing street estate. [65410]

Mr Maude: There are no plans to generate low-carbon energy from the Downing street estate.

The primary heat source for the estate is the Whitehall District Heating System, which runs from combined heat and power generation equipment. There are no plans to replace this.

Charitable Donations

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress the Behavioural Insights Team has made in developing a charitable project to improve donations. [65378]

Mr Maude: The recently published Giving White Paper

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/resource-library/giving-white-paper

sets out what the Cabinet Office, with support from the Behavioural Insights Team, is doing to encourage charitable giving.

Deaths: Drugs

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died of a drug overdose in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [65841]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died of a drug overdose in (a) York, (b) North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area and (c) England in each year since 1997. (65841)

The following tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was (i) drug poisoning (Table 1) and (ii) drug poisoning and any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate (Table 2), for (a) York unitary authority, (b) North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust and (c) England, from 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths from drug poisoning, York unitary authority, North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, and England, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

	York unitary authority	*North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust*	*England*
1997	7	36	2,644
1996	9	40	2,811
1999	7	29	2,932
2000	5	31	2,758
2001	13	38	2,884
2002	11	39	2,624
2003	5	28	2,425
2004	12	32	2,606
2005	7	29	2,589
2006	8	29	2,396
2007	4	21	2,433
2008	6	22	2,734
2009	8	34	2,675

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD 10) for the years 2001 to 2009. The ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 1.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths from drug misuse, York unitary authority, North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, and England, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

	York unitary authority	*North Yorkshire and York Primary are Trust*	*England*
1997	2	17	1,233
1998	4	18	1,389
1999	3	14	1,538
2000	2	19	1,510
2001	10	23	1,697
2002	7	20	1,505
2003	3	15	1,312
2004	8	22	1,417
2005	4	16	1,506
2006	4	17	1,456
2007	2	15	1,590
2008	5	16	1,800
2009	5	23	1,731

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD 10) for the years 2001 to 2009. The ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 1. Figures for drug misuse include all drug poisoning deaths where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

ICD-10	*ICD-9*	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	E850-E858	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	E950.0-E950.5	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances

Box 1. ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

ICD-10	*ICD-9*	*Description*
X85	E962.0	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	E980.0-E980.5	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65320]

Mr Maude: *(a)* Two regulations determined as not imposing costs on businesses were introduced by the Cabinet Office in the six months prior to 1 September 2010.

(b) No regulations determined as not imposing costs on businesses were introduced by the Cabinet Office in the six months after 1 September 2010.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65337]

Mr Maude: No regulations that impose costs on businesses have been introduced or revoked by the Cabinet Office since 1 September 2010.

No regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they addressed (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65354]

Mr Maude: No regulations that impose a cost on businesses were introduced by the Cabinet Office in the six months prior to or the six months after 1 September 2010.

Food: Hygiene

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress the Behavioural Insights Team has made in relation to food hygiene. [65377]

Mr Maude: The recently published consumer empowerment strategy, "Better Choices, Better Deals":

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/consumer-issues/consumer-empowerment

a joint BIS/Behavioural Insights Team publication, sets out how the team has been progressing work on food hygiene. This work is ongoing.

New Businesses: Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new business starts there have been in *(a)* Carmarthenshire and *(b)* Pembrokeshire since May 2010. [66290]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new business starts there have been in (a) Carmarthenshire and (b) Pembrokeshire since May 2010. [66290]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, the information requested is not available as the latest estimates for business births relate to 2009.

Organs: Donors

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress the Behavioural Insights Team has made in relation to levels of organ donation. [65371]

Mr Maude: The Behavioural Insights Team has been working with the Department of Health to trial a new 'prompted choice' for organ donation. The changes to the DVLA website will go live in the near future.

Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the Behavioural Insight Team's budget is allocated to public consultations. [65379]

Mr Maude: No proportion of the Behavioural Insights Team's budget is allocated to public consultations.

Public Sector: Procurement

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to ensure that all contracts put out to tender by Government Departments include a social value element. [65652]

Mr Maude: The role of the public procurer is to secure value for money in buying the goods and services that Government needs. Where they represent value for money, social issues can be taken into account in a way that is consistent with procurement law.

Smoking

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress the Behavioural Insights Team has made in relation to reductions in levels of smoking. [65370]

Mr Maude: The Behavioural Insights Team and the Department of Health are working in partnership with Boots and a leading UK academic in the field of smoking cessation to trial ways to encourage more smokers to successfully quit smoking. Results are expected in 2012.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Clubs: Public Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the decision was taken by his Department to authorise public expenditure on an away day at the Brickhouse burlesque club; how much was spent on the away day and on which contractors and firms; what form the teambuilding event took; and what steps have been taken to reduce expenditure on away days. [59209]

Robert Neill: This away day event was authorised by the Department in February 2010, before the coalition Government took office. The booking was made under the last Administration, while the cost of the event was debited via the Government Procurement Card in May 2010.

Poisson Rouge, an events management company, was contracted to provide the venue and the event. The total cost of the event was £4,719.21 which comprised £3,417.71 of payments made to Poisson Rouge and £1,301.50 to the venue, the Brickhouse.

The event involved hire of a room during the day at the venue, for a review of work in internal audit. While I am informed the Brickhouse often features such figures as 'burlesque chanteuse Lady Beau Peep' and 'showgirl sensation Amber Topaz', the event in this instance did not involve civil servants watching, or indeed, performing cabaret or other eclectic entertainment.

No alcohol was consumed at the event. The purpose of the staff event was to review work carried out for 2009-10, identify areas for improvement, agree changes for the forthcoming year to improve service delivery and build the team. However, the final part of the day did involve a team building event involving drumming, organised by Poisson Rouge.

http://www.poissonrouge.co.uk/events-organisers/services/team-building/rhythm.asp

The policy on such events has changed significantly following the arrival of the new Administration in May 2010. Team review events now take place at no or very limited costs, for example through using rooms in the Department. New checks and balances have been put in place, assisted by the discipline of the Department publishing all spending over £500 and greater openness over the Government Procurement Card.

I am aware that Poisson Rouge has been used in the past by a number of public sector clients. Embracing transparency and reducing away day spending is a prime example of how both Whitehall and the town hall can make sensible savings to cut costs, protect frontline services and pay off the deficit inherited from the last administration.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times he has visited *(a)* Buckinghamshire, *(b)* Surrey, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Dorset in an official capacity since May 2010. [65982]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my written answers of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 887-888W, and 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 682-684W.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what costs to the public purse have been incurred at each FiReControl room since it was constructed; what the cost to the public purse per month is of each Control room; how much has been spent on consultancy services for the FiReControl project to date; and what the monthly costs are of consultancy work connected with the regional FiReControl rooms. [58519]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* In first instance, I refer the hon. Member to the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The Failure of the FiReControl project".

It states:

> "The FiReControl project was flawed from the outset because it did not have the support of those essential to its success—local Fire and Rescue Services. The Department rushed the start of the project, failing to follow proper procedures. Ineffective checks and balances during initiation and early stages meant the Department committed itself to the project on the basis of broad-brush and inaccurate estimates of costs and benefits and an unrealistic delivery timetable, and agreed an inadequate contract with its IT supplier. The Department under-appreciated the project's complexity, and then mismanaged the IT contractor's performance and delivery. The Department failed to provide the necessary leadership to make the project successful, over-relying on poorly managed consultants and failing to sort out early problems with delivery by the contractor. The Department took a firmer grip of the project from 2009 and terminated the contract in December 2010 to avoid even more money being wasted. The Department is now trying to minimise the future cost of the project by subsidising Fire and Rescue Services to use the Regional Control Centres" (National Audit Office press release, 1 July 2011).

The total running costs incurred at each control centre building (up to and including April 2011) and the monthly running costs over the last three years are shown in the following table.

£

Control centre building	*Cost incurred in total*[1]	*Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)*[1] *2011-12*	*Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)*[1] *2010-11*	*Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)*[1] *2009-10*
London	2,011,773	261,152	[2]268,320	[2,3]3,359
South East	5,268,002	164,200	171,434	167,684
South West	5,970,324	145,784	156,267	152,517
East of England	4,307,538	155,833	168,338	155,817
East Midlands	6,266,748	144,534	155,835	152,085

£

Control centre building	Cost incurred in total[1]	Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)[1] 2011-12	Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)[1] 2010-11	Estimated monthly running cost (inc. rent)[1] 2009-10
West Midlands	5,460,625	158,574	169,243	165,493
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,175,2-54	145,725	153,965	144,638
North East	5,894,453	142,647	150,434	146,684
North West	4,534,320	141,241	155,620	150,953

[1] All costs exclude VAT.

[2] The building in London was completed on 26 February 2010 and was rent free until 26 November 2010. The 2010-11 figure from December 2010 is the estimated monthly running cost.

The National Audit Office report states on the empty buildings:

> "The Department's failure to manage the project as a whole has resulted in the creation of empty regional control centres. The nine regional control centres were purpose-built to house the new computerised equipment and were designed specifically for that purpose. The Department's decision to prioritise the procurement of the centres over the IT system at an early stage meant that the first centres were completed in June 2007, just three months after the IT contract had been awarded" (Full Report, p.8).

A total of £68.6 million has been spent on consultancy services for the FiReControl project to date. There are currently no costs associated with consultancy work on the control centre buildings. Monthly cost comparisons between 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table; the project closed in December 2010.

£

Month	2009-10	2010-11
April	413,300	851,300
May	390,500	397,000
June	1,372,500	753,900
July	845,500	773,400
August	2,755,300	495,100
September	937,000	647,800
October	1,088,100	542,800
November	99,400	613,700
December	868,900	512,800
January	702,100	280,000
February	790,400	176,900
March	998,500	38,100
Total	10,480,600	6,082,700

The coalition Government took decisive action and closed down the last Government's costly and flawed project when it became clear that it could not be delivered to an acceptable timeframe. Our aim is to achieve the best possible value for money for the taxpayer from these expensive legacy buildings that we have been handed on by the previous Administration.

We have already reached agreement with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to take over the control centre in Merton. Our preference is for Fire and Rescue Services to use the centres as they are highly resilient and built for this purpose. Where we cannot reach agreement for Fire and Rescue Services to move in, we will actively seek suitable tenants for them.

Fire Services: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons his Department has changed the funding formula for fire brigades. [65849]

Robert Neill: Two changes were made to the fire funding formula which are reflected in the current Local Government Finance Settlement. The first was to update the expenditure data and the second was to adopt a new fire risk index with a positive weight for population density. Both updates were made to reflect more up to date data. We took into account all of the views received on the options for change set out in the summer 2010 consultation paper, which concluded two years of work reviewing the existing formula with representatives from fire authorities.

Housing: Fire Extinguishers

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the fitting of sprinkler systems to all new build domestic accommodation. [65688]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Filton and Bradley Stoke (Jack Lopresti) on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 6W.

North West Regional Development Agency: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sites in *(a)* Hyndburn and *(b)* Lancashire are owned by the (i) North West Regional Development Agency and (ii) Homes and Communities Agency. [65569]

Andrew Stunell: The regional development agency assets are a matter for the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable).

A detailed list of the assets owned by Homes and Communities Agency, broken down by local authority area, are listed on the agency website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/land-and-property-assets

These assets are a mix in terms of scale and type of land with many being part of ongoing negotiation or at a stage of contractual commitment for development, but are still in the agency's ownership. Others are small non-developable parcels such as grass verges.

Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the modelling on the effects on the Department for Work and Pensions, including the potential effects on housing benefit expenditure, of his policy on affordable rents. [64637]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government published a full impact assessment for Affordable Rent in June 2011. This includes indicative estimates of the potential effects on housing benefit expenditure:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/rentimpactassessment

Rough Sleepers

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of rough sleepers in York in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* May of each subsequent year. [65606]

Grant Shapps: The Government have introduced a new more accurate way of evaluating rough sleeping levels in England. Previously only local authorities where there was a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to provide a count, which led to a large number of existing rough sleepers being excluded from the data. All areas across England now provide counts or robust estimates giving a clear national picture. Latest statistics show 1,768 rough sleepers in England on any one night in autumn 2010. York unitary authority provided an estimate of two rough sleepers in the area. These figures are published at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

Rough sleeping statistics for previous years are not comparable to the latest figures. However, figures for previous years have been published on the DCLG website and are available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1648099.xls

The Department has no plans to revise its rough sleeping statistics for previous years.

This Government are committed to tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness. We have maintained the level of Homelessness Grant, with £400 million for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next four years. A cross-departmental Ministerial Working Group has been set up to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people.

Travellers: Planning Permission

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements he has put in place in respect of the retrospective grant of planning permission to Travellers. [64859]

Robert Neill: The provisions on retrospective planning applications in the Localism Bill will apply to all developers. Clause 108 provides for local planning authorities to decline to determine retrospective planning applications where an enforcement notice has been served. This means that a developer may attempt to obtain planning permission for an unauthorised development by either a retrospective planning application or an enforcement appeal, but not both.

This will allow for the correction of innocent mistakes, such as a householder not realising planning permission was required, whilst clamping down on the intentional abuse of retrospective planning permission.

Waste Disposal

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities collect resident and business waste *(a)* weekly and *(b)* bi-weekly. [62371]

Robert Neill: We believe the public have a reasonable expectation that their household waste collections should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste. That is why we have already ditched the last Government's policy of imposing fortnightly collections and we are now going to work with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections. We want to make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encouraged councils to cut the scope of collections.

My Department does not hold centrally the frequency data requested, however, the Government will be working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme to monitor levels of service, and my Department is examining how we can increase transparency to local residents on the frequency and cost efficiency of waste collections, with a view to using best practice to help increase frequency and quality of service.

DEFENCE

Assassination: Armed Conflict

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the targeted killing of individuals *(a)* in armed conflict situations and *(b)* outside armed conflict situations; and if he will make a statement. [64472]

Dr Fox: Any use of force whether in an armed conflict or otherwise will need to be consistent with applicable legal obligations, whether under a UN Security Council Resolution or some other legal mandate. In an armed conflict situation we would comply with the Laws of Armed Conflict. Any use of force outside of an armed conflict should be consistent with that legal mandate and also with English criminal law, for instance, in cases such as self defence, defence of others or prevention of crime.

Defence: Space Technology

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the UK's military space capability. [65975]

Peter Luff: As part of the strategic defence and security review, the Government expressed its intent to develop a national space security policy which will coherently address all aspects of the UK's dependence on space. The Ministry of Defence is currently closely involved in this policy development work, which will set the context for what improvements, if any, may be necessary to meet the UK's future military space capability requirements.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65308]

Peter Luff: All of the regulations introduced by the Ministry of Defence in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and in the six months after 1 September 2010 were determined not to impose costs on businesses. Defence Ministers signed seven statutory instruments in the first period, and five statutory instruments in the second period. The Government's policy is to consider alternatives to regulation. A list of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Library of the House.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65325]

Peter Luff: No regulations that impose costs on businesses have been introduced or removed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) since 1 September 2010. No regulations were excluded from the one-in, one-out system by the MOD because they address emergencies and systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. The one-in, one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force until January 2011.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65341]

Peter Luff: No regulations that impose costs on businesses have been introduced or removed by the Ministry of Defence in the six months prior to 1 September 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64430]

Dr Fox: Defence Ministers are committed to an open and regular dialogue with their parliamentary counterparts, however the information requested is not held.

HMS Ark Royal

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the decision to sell HMS Ark Royal. [65156]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 389W, to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St Pancras (Frank Dobson).

HMS Endurance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* for how long HMS Endurance was leased, *(b)* how much that lease cost and *(c)* at what cost it was purchased. [58918]

Peter Luff: The records of these arrangements are stored in archive and need to be retrieved in order to provide a full answer to the hon. Member. I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Angus Robertson:

In my answer of 15 June 2011 to your Parliamentary Question (*Official Report*, column 830W), I undertook to write to you and provide details of the lease and purchase of HMS Endurance.

In October 1991, the Department leased the Polar Circle, which was subsequently renamed HMS Endurance, for a period of seven months for £3.1 million. The ship was then purchased for £25 million in early 1992.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets that have been used in the Libyan campaign are due for decommissioning under the strategic defence and security review; what elements of that capacity will be replaced; and in what time frame. [64958]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Following the strategic defence and security review, a number of assets have been, or are planned to be, withdrawn that have been used in Libya. These are as follows:

the withdrawal from service of the Type 22 Frigate HMS Cumberland in April this year, without replacement;

the withdrawal from service of the three variants of the TriStar transport/tanker aircraft as we transition to the more capable A330 (Voyager) over the next few years;

reducing the role of the VC-10 transport/tanker aircraft to air-to-air refuelling only, with the target of withdrawing it by 2013 as Voyager enters service;

the withdrawal from service of the C-130J Hercules tactical transport aircraft by 2022, as we transition to the larger and more capable A400M aircraft;

the withdrawal from service of the Sentinel aircraft, once these are no longer required to support operations in Afghanistan, and of the Sea King Mk 7 helicopter from 2016. We have a number of manned and remotely piloted aircraft either in-service or forthcoming that will mitigate the loss of these aircraft.

We will continue to have the capability required to continue to support UK activity in Libya pursuant with UN Security Council Resolution 1973.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons forces involved in Operation *(a)* Ellamy and *(b)* Unified Protector are not eligible for operational pay. [65846]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the Statement made earlier today by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

Military Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours are provided for in the Sentinel R1 Aircraft basic contract. [65853]

Peter Luff: The Sentinel contractor logistic support contract provides for 3,200 flying hours per year.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has made for the replacement of the capability currently provided by Sentinel R1 aircraft after 2015. [65855]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review announced the decision to delete the Sentinel capability in 2015. The Ministry of Defence is developing plans to address the capability gap and expect to reach conclusions in the autumn. The plans are likely to involve the use of Watchkeeper, an unmanned air vehicle, and future systems such as the Crowsnest programme from 2016, and through the development of Scavenger, an unmanned air system.

Military Decorations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will recommend an extension to the qualification criteria for receipt of the Diamond Jubilee Medal to allow those who have served for a minimum of five years in the armed forces at any point during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II to apply; [65080]

(2) if he will recommend an extension to the qualification criteria for receipt of the Diamond Jubilee Medal to those currently serving in the armed forces who have been deployed to Afghanistan at any point since February 2007 without having served for a minimum of five years. [65079]

Mr Robathan: We welcome the announcement by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), on 28 June 2011 that members of the armed forces (regular and reserves) who have completed five full calendar years of service, and are serving on 6 February 2012, will be presented with a medal to mark Her Majesty's diamond jubilee.

The Ministry of Defence will issue detailed qualifying criteria applying to personnel later this summer, and the points raised by these questions will be taken into consideration during this work.

Military Police

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what elements of the service police in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Royal Navy operate on a tri-service basis. [64909]

Mr Robathan: Joint service units comprising personnel from the three service police forces operate in the following locations:

Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands;

Defence College of Policing and Guarding;

Service Police Crime Bureau;

Afghanistan;

Diego Garcia.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* duties and *(b)* priorities of service police in the (i) Army, (ii) RAF and (iii) Royal Navy are; and if he will make a statement. [64912]

Mr Robathan: Each service police force is headed by a Provost Marshal and directed by their respective services. Each force provides different capabilities and is therefore organised differently.

Royal Military Police (RMP)

The duties and priorities of the RMP are twofold; to police the Army and, to provide support to the Army. The first covers the provision of policing and investigative services in a contemporary operating environment at home and while deployed, in order to support the service justice system. The second covers the use of police and investigative skills to support military operations, and includes close protection for designated individuals.

Royal Air Force (RAF) Police

The RAF Police duties and priorities are to provide police, counter-intelligence and protective security support to enable RAF commanders to deliver effective military capability. Their roles include the policing of RAF stations at home and overseas, provision of higher level investigative support, and advising on security and risk management issues. They also provide tactical policing support to military operations including close protection and counter intelligence work.

Royal Navy Police (RNP)

The RNP support operational effectiveness and the delivery of military capability by the prevention, investigation and detection of crime and disciplinary offences across the naval service.

The overriding priority for RNP is to support the Royal Navy on deployed operations and enhance the policing capability to deal with counter-piracy and narcotic operations. Within the UK base port areas, RNP policing priorities are to reduce crime that impacts on military capability and respond to the needs of military communities including concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour.

Military Police: Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the costs of administration of the service police, including the Service Police Crime Bureau, were in the latest period for which figures are available. [64910]

Mr Robathan: It is important to note that administrative costs are recorded differently across the service police.

The administration costs of the service police for financial year 2010-11 were as follows:

Royal Military Police—£1,907,954

This figure includes the administration cost of the Service Police Crime Bureau which is met by Provost Marshal (Army) and was £183,831 over the period. The figure does not include the costs of Royal Military Police or civilian personnel involved in administrative duties who are allocated to other military units.

Royal Air Force Police—£4,632,000

The RAF police figure covers all administration costs and includes civilian personnel costs at £2 million.

Royal Navy Police—£246,744

This figure does not include administrative costs associated with Royal Navy police on budgets other than fleet, sea-going units, deployed operations, or Tri Service establishments.

Nuclear Disarmament

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what matters were agreed at the meeting of the permanent members of the UN Security Council on nuclear disarmament held in Paris between 29 June and 1 July 2011; and if he will place in the Library copies of papers circulated by attending parties. [65184]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The P5 Conference in Paris was a significant demonstration by the five nuclear weapon states of their determination to make progress against their commitments agreed in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference Action Plan in May 2010. A public statement announcing the outcomes of the Conference was issued immediately afterwards and is available on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/
?view=PressS&id=627529382

In order to facilitate frank discussions on sensitive issues, participants had agreed in advance that the detail of the discussions and papers circulated at the meeting would remain confidential. The meeting successfully contributed to building mutual trust between the P5; reaching agreement on further work on new confidence-building disarmament initiatives, including the establishment of a working group to enhance understanding of P5 nuclear terminology, and a confidential UK-hosted expert-level meeting later this year to share lessons from work that the UK has led on verification of nuclear warhead dismantlement.

Records of Detention

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the oral statement of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3294-97W, on records of detention (review conclusions) and the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 549W, on Afghanistan: detainees, what steps UK authorities took to determine the status, under the Geneva conventions, of the two detainees concerned; whether the two individuals were classified by the UK authorities as *(a)* prisoners of war, *(b)* civilians, *(c)* protected persons *or (d)* under any other legal classification; in what detention centres in Iraq the two detainees were held by the US prior to their transfer to Afghanistan; and on what date the two transfers to Afghanistan took place. [58497][1]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 9 June 2011]*: These individuals were members of Lashkar-e-Taiba and they were captured as they posed an imperative threat to security in Iraq. They had travelled to Iraq to target coalition forces and the operation launched against them was necessary in order to save lives. Our forces risked their lives to capture such individuals and to ensure the security of Iraq.

They were captured by UK forces in and around Baghdad in February 2004, at the time that the UK was an occupying power in south eastern Iraq, and immediately transferred to US forces in Iraq in accordance with established processes. The reason for this transfer was that the UK did not have its own detention facility close to where the two individuals were captured. The individuals were then held in US detention at Balad and subsequently transferred to a US detention facility in Afghanistan by August 2004.

UK forces did not undertake an assessment of whether or not the individuals were prisoners of war because they were immediately transferred to US forces for detention. As part of the review of the case completed by officials between late 2008 and early 2009, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) considered the status of the detainees and determined that, as there was no information to suggest that they were members of the armed forces of Iraq, they would not have been prisoners of war. They may have been protected persons under the Geneva conventions, subject to certain criteria being satisfied. If they were protected persons, compliance with the Geneva conventions in respect of detainees held by US forces was primarily a matter for the US.

The MOD is co-operating fully with Sir Peter Gibson's Detainee inquiry, the purpose of which was described by the Prime Minister, in July 2010 as to

> "examine whether, and if so to what extent, the UK Government and its intelligence agencies were involved in improper treatment of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations overseas, or were aware of the improper treatment of detainees in operations in which the UK was involved".

We understand that the Detainee inquiry will consider this case as part of their work.

Service Police: Travel

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of travel for official purposes of civilian staff of the service police, across the Army, RAF and Navy between May 2010 and 2011. [65283]

Mr Robathan: The travel and subsistence costs incurred by civilian staff supporting the service police was as follows:

	£
Royal Navy police	0
Royal Air Force police	1,901.74

It is not possible to provide a figure for the civilian staff supporting the Royal Military Police (RMP) since any travel costs are met by the relevant unit where the RMP are located, therefore this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION

Children in Care: GCSE

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* looked after children and *(b)* other children gained five GCSEs or equivalents at grades A* to C in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010; and how many of those included GCSEs or equivalents in English and mathematics. [64319]

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 3-4MC.]*

Tim Loughton: Information on the percentage of looked after children who achieve five GCSEs, as well as those who achieve five GCSEs including English and mathematics, is available in table 3.1 of the Department's Statistical First Release, Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010. This shows the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March who achieved five or more GCSEs (including equivalents) for all years since 2006. Information on years prior to 2006 is not available from this data source. The publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information taken from table 3.1 is shown in table 1; this follows the current practice of comparing the GCSE performance of children looked after continuously for 12 months with that of all children. Information on the GCSE performance of children who are not looked after can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Key Stage 4 performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March[1] compared to Key Stage 4 performance of all children, years: 2006-10—coverage: England

				Percentage of children			
				Who achieved (GCSE or equivalent)			
	Number eligible to sit GCSEs[2]	*Entered for at least 1 GCSE or equivalent*	*Entered for at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent*	*Any pass*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics*
2006	4,900	62.5	49.0	61.8	40.7	11.8	5.9
2007	4,900	61.8	48.5	61.3	40.8	13.5	6.9
2008	5,000	66.3	53.0	66.3	46.1	16.6	8.5
2009	5,000	68.5	56.0	68.7	49.7	21.1	9.8
2010	5,100	77.6	58.9	78.0	50.6	25.1	11.6
All children[3]							
2006	648,800	92.3	97.5	97.3	90.1	59.0	45.6
2007	655,100	94.4	99.5	98.0	90.9	61.4	46.3
2008	653,000	93.8	99.1	98.6	91.6	65.3	47.6
2009	634,500	98.8	94.3	98.9	92.3	70.0	49.8
2010	639,700	98.8	94.3	99.0	92.7	75.3	53.4

[1] Children looked after continuously for at least 12 months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

[2] Number of eligible children based dh those aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.

[3] Figures (or all children are taken from Statistical First Release. GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2009/10 (Revised). Figures on GCSE entries are taken from equivalent earlier publications.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

CLA-NPD matched data

Information on the GCSE attainment of children looked after continuously for 12 months in 1997 is not available. The earliest data available are for 2000 and relate to all children looked after continuously at 30 September each year. These data include GNVQs but do not include any other GCSE equivalent qualifications. As these data have been derived from a different data source and includes a different cohort of children, the percentages given in table 2 are not directly comparable with those shown in table 1. Information on the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 30 September who achieved five or more A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics or the percentage of these children entered for GCSEs is not available. The available information is shown in table 2.

Table 2: GCSE performance of looked-after children in Year 11 compared with all children, school years ending 30 September 2000 and 2001, England

	Numbers and percentages					
	Looked-after children				All children[1]	
	Numbers		Percentages[2]		Percentages	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Number in Year 11	3,900	4,200	—	—	—	—
Number who sat at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ[3]	2,100	2,200	53.5	54.1	—	—
Number who obtained at least:						
1 GCSE at grade A* to G or a GNVQ	1,900	2,100	40.2	49.6	94	95
5 GCSE's at grade A* to G	1,400	1,400	35.5	33.1	89	90

Table 2: GCSE performance of looked-after children in Year 11 compared with all children, school years ending 30 September 2000 and 2001, England

Numbers and percentages

	Looked-after children				All children[1]	
	Numbers		Percentages[2]		Percentages	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
5 GCSE's at grade A* to C	280	330	7.3	8.0	49	48

[1] Source: DfES statistical bulletin: GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/ASA/CE/Advanced GNVQ Examination Results 2000/01—England. Issued May 2002.

[2] Expressed as a percentage of all looked after children in Year 11.

[3] DfES did not collect this data item for all children.

Children in Care: Reading

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* looked after children and *(b)* other children achieved the expected standard in reading and writing at key stage 1 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [64320]

Tim Loughton: Information on the percentage of looked after children who achieve the expected standard in reading and writing in key stage 1 tests is available in table 1.1 of the Department's Statistical First Release, Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010. This shows the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March who achieved at least level 2 in reading and writing key stage 1 tests for all years since 2006. Information on years prior to 2006 is not available from this data source. The publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information taken from table 1.1 is shown in table 1; this follows the current practice of comparing the academic achievement of children looked after continuously for 12 months with that of all children. Information on the key stage 1 performance of children who are not looked after can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Eligibility and performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months[1] at key stage 1, includes comparisons with all children[2]. Years: 2006-10. Coverage: England

Number/percentage

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children looked after[1]					
Number eligible to sit key stage 1 tasks and tests[3]	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,400
Percentage who achieved at least level 2[4] in the following:					
Reading	57	55	56	56	58
Writing	50	48	49	49	51
All children[2]					
Number eligible to sit key stage 1 tasks and tests[3]	559,800	545,300	535,800	531,900	551,400
Percentage who achieved at least level 2[4] in the following:					
Reading	84	84	84	84	85
Writing	81	80	80	81	81

[1] Children looked after continuously for at least 12 months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

[2] Figures for all children taken from Statistical First Release, National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England, 2009/10 (Provisional).

[3] Number of eligible children based on those aged six at the start of the academic year, i.e. on 31 August.

[4] Expected level for age group. Figures at key stage 1 are based on teacher assessments.

[5] All numbers less than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest 10, otherwise they are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
CLA-NPD matched data

Information on the key stage 1 attainment of children looked after continuously for 12 months for years prior to 2006 relates to children looked after continuously at 30 September each year. Please note that because these data have been derived from a different data source and include a different cohort of children, the percentages given in table 2 are not directly comparable with those shown in table 1 above. The earliest year for which this information is available is 2000; this is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Eligibility and performance of looked-after children in key stage tasks and tests, compared with all children, school years ending 30 September 2000 and 2001. England

Number and percentage

	Looked after children				All children[1]			
	Number		Percentage		Percentage		Ratio QP7[2]	
Year 2	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Number eligible to sit key stage 2 tasks and tests	2,000	2,100	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Eligibility and performance of looked-after children in key stage tasks and tests, compared with all children, school years ending 30 September 2000 and 2001. England

Number and percentage

	Looked after children				*All children*[1]			
	Number		*Percentage*		*Percentage*		*Ratio QP7*[2]	
Year 2	*2000*	*2001*	*2000*	*2001*	*2000*	*2001*	*2000*	*2001*
Number who attained at least level 2[3] in the following:								
Reading task[4]	970	950	47.6	45.1	83	84	0.6	0.5
Writing task	990	1,100	48.6	50.6	84	86	0.6	0.6

[1] Source: DfES bulletin 'National curriculum assessments of 7, 11 and 14 year olds in England—2001'.

[2] The proportion of looked after children attaining the target levels or better in each of the tested subjects in the National Curriculum Assessments tests, expressed as a ratio of the proportion of all children at that stage attaining the target level or better in the local education authority.

[3] Target level for age group.

[4] The 'all children' key stage 1 reading task figure is derived by DfES from an average of children attaining level 2 or above in the reading task and pupils attaining level 3 or above in the reading comprehension test, therefore cannot be directly compared with the reading task or reading comprehension test figures for looked after children. There was also a reading comprehension task in 2000. Figures shown for 2000 are for reading task only.

Freedom of Information Requests

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63583]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or member of the public.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65361]

Tim Loughton: The Department is working closely with the Home Office, other Government Departments and stakeholders on the development of a new human trafficking strategy. I am reviewing guidance which was issued by the previous Government on safeguarding children from trafficking, and am considering improved measures to protect trafficked children going missing from care. We have also provided a grant of £521,360 for 2011-12, and a further grant of £876,360 for 2012-13 conditional on meeting targets, for a Barnardo's project aimed at providing specialist support to sexually exploited or trafficked children. Additionally I sit on the Minister of State for Immigration's inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Satellite Communications

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of Earth observation satellite technology in monitoring *(a)* climate change and *(b)* the impacts of climate change. [65812]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) welcomes the assessment and recommendations provided by the 2010 update of the "Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC" on climate observations, including those obtained by satellite technology, prepared by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat. A UK response to the 2010 Update is currently in preparation.

DECC also welcomes the 2011 update of the satellite supplement to the GCOS implementation plan that is currently under way. The Department is well aware of the importance of Earth observation satellite technology in monitoring *(a)* climate change and *(b)* the impacts of climate change, and works closely with the UK Space Agency on such matters.

Energy: Seas and Oceans

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on licensing sea kite energy technology. [65163]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to supporting the development of the marine energy industry in the UK. The "sea kite" technology being developed by companies such as Minesto UK Ltd is just one of the many leading tidal energy technologies currently being developed in the UK and it has already received £350,000 support from the Carbon Trust to develop and deploy its first prototype at sea. If sea kite technologies can be successfully developed they could allow the utilisation of lower velocity tidal energy resource which cannot be used by more conventional designs.

Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the average rate of return on investment for a company investing in low-carbon technologies. [65443]

Gregory Barker: A company's rate of return is often confidential and will depend on the nature and stage of investment and type of technology being invested in.

An assessment of the impact on the cost of capital for low carbon technologies was undertaken as part of the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity system. This information is set out in the impact assessment published alongside the electricity market reform White Paper.

The current bands set for the current Renewables Obligation were developed using assumed hurdle rates, (i.e. minimum rate of return required to invest) developed in 2007[1].

More recent assessments of hurdle rates have been undertaken as part of a report produced by Arup in June 2011[2].

Information regarding DECC's assumptions around the required rates of return under the Feed-In Tariffs scheme for different classes of investor is available in 'Design of Feed-in Tariffs for sub-5MW electricity in Great Britain—Quantitative Analysis for DECC'[3], and for the Renewable Heat Incentive in the impact assessment published in March 2011[4].

[1] Ernst and Young (2007), Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation: Costs of Electricity Production.

[2] Arup, Review of the Generation Costs and Deployment Potential of Renewable Electricity Technologies in the UK, June 2011.

[3] (Poyry/Element Energy, July 2009; available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/Renewable%20Electricity%20Financial%20Incentives/1_20090715135352_e_@@_RelateddocElementPoyryreportonquantitativeissuesinFITsdesignFINAL.pdf

[4] DECC, Renewable Heat Incentive Impact Assessment, March 2011.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on steps to encourage research and development in low-carbon technologies by universities. [65444]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers regularly hold meetings with their counterparts in BIS to discuss a range of issues. The primary channel for BIS and DECC Ministers to engage on low-carbon research and development is through the Low Carbon Innovation Group. The group is co-chaired by the Minister for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts), and myself, and includes representation from Research Councils UK.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Trades Union Congress and *(b)* industry groups on research and development for low-carbon technologies. [65451]

Gregory Barker: DECC publishes all meetings the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) has had with industry groups and organisations on its internet on a quarterly basis.

DECC is also a member of Energy Research Partnership. The high level forum brings together key funders of low carbon innovation in Government, industry and academia, plus other interested parties, to work together towards shared goals.

Housing: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding was allocated to the City of York council for capital investment in housing stock through the Decent Homes programme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [65605]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Government investment in council-owned housing stock was primarily provided through the housing revenue account subsidy system in the form of local authorities supported capital expenditure, arms length management organisations supported borrowing allocations and major repairs allowance. In 2009-10 the City of York was allocated £1 million in local authorities supported capital expenditure and £5.13 million in major repairs allowance. In 2010-11 the city was allocated £5.34 million in major repairs allowance.

Renewable Energy

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the incentives are which the Government make available to energy companies to encourage the use of renewable energy. [65645]

Gregory Barker: The current financial mechanisms to incentivise renewable electricity are the renewables obligation (RO) and the feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme.

Since its introduction in 2002, the RO has succeeded in more than tripling the level of large-scale renewable electricity in the UK from 1.8% in 2002 to 7% in 2010[1]. It currently supports around 6.3GW of accredited capacity and is worth around £1.4 billion to the renewable electricity industry.

The FITs scheme was launched in April 2010 to incentivise the deployment of small scale low carbon electricity generation. To date, over 44,800 FITs installations have been registered.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is due to go ahead this year to support renewable heat.

[1] On a renewables obligation basis.

Source:

Energy Trends, June 2011

Warm Front Scheme: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on the Warm Front scheme in York in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [65604]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the total Warm Front spend in York[1] in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

	Spend (£)
2009-10	674,588.82
2010-11	896,277.50

[1] The figures are for the local authority of York due to the constituency changing between 2009 and 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Balkans: War Crimes

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prosecution of persons alleged to have committed war crimes in the Balkans; and if he will make a statement. [64924]

Mr Hague: The UK is among the strongest supporters of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The tribunal's work to effectively prosecute war criminals is critical for regional reconciliation.

Most notably, we welcome, very strongly, the recent arrest and transfer to The Hague of Ratko Mladic and we support the ICTY in its effective handling of that case.

This is important for International Justice, and for the families of the victims of those terrible crimes. It is vital now, that the Serbian authorities continue to cooperate fully with the ICTY. Both in supporting the handling of existing trials—such as the notable cases of Vojislav Seselj and Radovan Karadzic. But also in continuing the search for the last ICTY remaining fugitive—Goran Hadzic.

Equally, we note the successful prosecution of Croatian General Ante Gotovina sentenced on 15 April to 24 years for war crimes. We hope that this judgement, like all ICTY judgments, will be respected, while bearing in mind the possibility of an appeal.

BBC World Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has allocated ring-fenced funding to the BBC World Service Hindi shortwave service. [63054]

Mr Lidington: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 14-16WS. In that statement, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the BBC's agreement that the World Service would be able to reinvest the reduction in their planned contribution to the BBC pension deficit to mitigate the impact on services of their budget reduction. One area they have identified as a priority for such funding is the continuation of the Hindi shortwave service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not allocated any additional funding to the Hindi shortwave service.

Belarus: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of reports of the actions of the Government of Belarus in relation to online dissent in that country. [64925]

Mr Hague: I am appalled at the increasingly repressive approach being taken by the authorities in Belarus. Opposition and independent media websites have been subjected to increasing numbers of cyber attacks, in particular before and after the so-called "silent" protests which have taken place throughout Belarus in recent weeks. I and the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), have made clear repeatedly to Belarus that basic human rights and freedom of expression must be respected.

Brahmaputra River: Hydroelectric Power

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the effects of hydroelectric and diversionary projects on the Brahmaputra River on downstream countries. [64329]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of recent media reporting regarding hydroelectric and diversionary projects on the Brahmaputra river. However we have not received any specific reports of the effects of such projects. We understand that since 2002 India and China have signed a number of MOUs for the provision of hydrological information on the Brahmaputra river, and that the two sides have set up a joint expert level mechanism to discuss co-operation. We continue to monitor water disputes in the region, recognising that these are a potential source of tension.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training is offered to officials in his Department to deal with the families of UK victims of murder and manslaughter abroad. [64232]

Mr Jeremy Browne: All consular staff in London and abroad undergo pass/fail training before taking up their duties. Much of this is delivered by professional external trainers and includes specific modules on death in violent and suspicious circumstances and bereavement. Staff refresh their skills through attending consular workshops held regularly at posts around the world.

Foreign Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any meetings are scheduled between members of the Government acting in a private capacity and foreign Heads of State and Government. [64835]

Mr Hague: No.

GCHQ: Relocation

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* final cost was in real terms of the 1997 relocation of GCHQ in Cheltenham. [65636]

Mr Hague: The cost of the Government Communications Headquarter's (GCHQ) whole new accommodation programme was approximately £1.2 billion. This included the building cost, maintenance and running of the building and the provision of services over 30 years. This was in line with initial estimates.

There was a further £308 million to meet the costs of the technical transition.

Human Rights: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation he has received from human rights organisations on the issue of internet access in other countries since May 2010. [63611]

Mr Hague: This Government are committed to supporting freedom of expression on the internet and will continue to encourage states that restrict access to online media to uphold their international human rights commitments.

We do not keep a central record of all representations received, including those on the issue of internet access in other countries. However, a sub-group of my Advisory Group on Human Rights has been set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), specifically to advise the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on freedom of expression on the internet. This group will hold its first meeting on 20 July, and will include representatives from relevant human rights organisations.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65771]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government made tackling human trafficking a priority in the coalition programme for government. The Home Department leads this work and will shortly be publishing the Government's strategy on human trafficking. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office strongly welcomes its publication and has been involved in its development. We work, often with colleagues from other Departments, with governments and others in source and transit countries to identify and prevent human trafficking, to protect its victims and to prosecute its perpetrators. We are proud that our work to date has received praise from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, and will continue to work with the Home Office and others to combat human trafficking.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* seniority of defectors from the Gaddafi Government in Libya since the beginning of Operation Ellamy. [64914]

Mr Hague: The number of Libyans who have deserted or defected from Gaddafi's regime is steadily increasing. It is hard to give a definitive number, but recent departures include five generals and two colonels, reported along with soldiers of other ranks; the Libyan ambassadors in Rome and Berlin; and 17 members of the Libyan football team.

Since the beginning of Operation Ellamy, the Foreign Minister, Musa Kusa, the Labour Minister Ali Al-Amin Mansur and the head of the National Oil Corporation, Shukri Ghanem, are the most senior members of the regime to have left Gaddafi. These departures are a measure of the growing pressure on those close to Gaddafi—both from sustained military action to prevent the regime attacking its own people, and from UN and EU sanctions.

Libya: Arms Trade

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the supplying of weapons to rebel fighters in Libya by the French Government; and if he will make a statement. [65805]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* We are aware of reports that the French Government decided to supply some weapons along with other essential supplies to the Libyan Opposition in the Jebel Nafusa resisting attacks by the Gaddafi regime. We agree the United Nations resolutions allow in certain limited circumstances weapons to be provided. The UK has focused on supplying other forms of equipment.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* consideration was given to and *(b)* a costing sought for (i) chartering a reserve aircraft and (ii) ensuring that contracts had a redundancy capacity in case of mechanical fault when chartering evacuation flights from Libya. [64922]

Mr Hague: Throughout the Libya evacuation, our top priority was the safe and quick evacuation of British nationals and other eligible persons. The UK instigated the military multinational evacuation cell, based in Malta, to co-ordinate rescue efforts throughout the crisis. Whenever we sought a charter flight to support the evacuation, our brokers would return a number of options from different air operating companies. We made a selection on the basis of seat capacity, location of aircraft and price. Once our selected charter was confirmed, the broker informed the unsuccessful bidders. Because of the way the charter market works, it is not possible to hold other flights on reserve without paying significant costs. Following the FCO Review of Consular Evacuation Procedures, which I lodged in the Library on 4 July, we are examining the most cost-effective way of securing redundancy capacity, if we need it in the future.

Palestinians: Arms Trade

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on allegations that UK-manufactured radar systems were found by Israeli defence forces in the cargo of the ship Victoria. [65765]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* I have received reports that UK-produced radar components were found on the ship Victoria. This is very concerning. The UK operates an extremely rigorous export licensing system which includes consideration of end users and end use. Following an investigation of the reports with the manufacturer in this case we are working to ensure that new measures are implemented to prevent similar allegations in future.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Greek Government on the Gaza aid flotilla. [65430]

Mr Lidington: Officials from our embassy in Athens have discussed the matter of the Gaza flotilla with the Greek authorities and have relayed to them the United Kingdom's position on this. Our travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories gives clear guidance against any attempt to enter Gaza by sea. We continue to advise against participating in flotillas or overland convoys to Gaza because of the risks involved.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on UN consideration of Palestinian statehood. [60073]

Mr Hague: The unprecedented changes of the Arab Spring make progress on the peace process more urgent than ever. President Obama has called for the parties to return to the table for negotiations based on 1967 borders with agreed swaps and security arrangements that protect Israel and respect Palestinian sovereignty. The UK backs this call.

We urge all parties to seize this moment of opportunity and return as soon as possible to direct negotiations and we have regular meetings with our EU counterparts. As I told all sides during my visit to the region on 27 June to 1 July, we do not know if there will be a resolution in September, or what it will look like—so we have not made any decisions. Instead we urge both sides to look towards the things that are necessary to get a negotiated settlement and to return to talks as soon as possible.

Sikhs: Clothing

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on steps to ensure appropriate respect for the wearing of the Sikh turban. [64701]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 125-26W.

My Department leads on engagement with faith communities and has been facilitating discussions between the Department for Transport and a range of bodies representing British Sikhs, in relation to the approach on this issue adopted at British airports.

Syria

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department met the hon. Member for Braintree (i) before and (ii) after his meeting with President Assad of Syria in June 2011 to discuss the meeting. [64837]

Mr Hague: I have not met the Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Braintree (Mr Newmark), to discuss his visit to Syria. However, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), spoke briefly to the hon. Member for Braintree both before and after the visit and they have also spoken in the margins of a meeting in the House. No other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister has met the hon. Member for Braintree, although following his return from Syria he has met FCO officials.

Syria: Oil

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will initiate discussions with the governments of *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Italy, *(c)* France and *(d)* the Netherlands to urge them to cease importing oil from Syria. [65575]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* The UK has been at the forefront of the international effort to introduce targeted sanctions against Syria on those responsible for and associated with violent repression in Syria.

We will, with our EU and international partners, continue to keep up the pressure on those responsible for the violence and repression.

We are in constant discussion with our EU partners about ways to increase this pressure.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has discussed with her counterparts in *(a)* Norway and *(b)* Sweden measures to reduce the level of alcohol consumption by the public. [65144]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

I met my counterpart from Norway, Anne-Grete Strom-Erichsen, at an informal European Union Council of Health Ministers from 4 to 5 April 2011. At her request, we discussed the possible renewal of the derogation for Norway from the EU Audiovisual media services Directive, which has permitted Norway to continue to ban advertising of alcohol.

Departmental officials have taken part in discussions on reducing alcohol misuse and harm within the EU Commission's Committee on National Policy and Action in World Health Organization European Region discussions.

I meet many Health Ministers at EU Health Council informally and discuss a number of issues.

Association of Chief Police Officers: Finance

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on its budget for 2011-12. [63257]

Mrs May *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* I hold regular discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) about a range of policing issues, the role of ACPO and its budget.

Biometrics: Olympic Games 2012

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans her Department has to collect biometric data on *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* athletes and *(c)* officials for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; [65293]

(2) for how long biometric data on *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* athletes and *(c)* officials for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held; [65294]

(3) what steps will be taken to destroy biometric data collected for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [65295]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) collects fingerprints and facial images from visa nationals as part of the business as usual process when they apply for a visa.

UKBA will continue to collect fingerprints and facial images from visa nationals during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This process will apply to members of the public who are visa nationals and wish to visit the UK to attend the games.

Olympic and Paralympic Games family members such as athletes, coaches and officials will be required to obtain accreditation for the Olympic or Paralympic Games before participating in the games, and will undergo a series of biographical security checks undertaken by the Home Office prior to being granted accreditation and receiving an Olympic or Paralympic identity and accreditation card.

As a result of commitments given in the host city contract for the games, certain visa national games family members will be able to use the Olympic and Paralympic identity and accreditation card in lieu of a visa when it is presented with a valid national passport or other acceptable travel document during games time. Consequently, they will not need to apply for a visa to enter the UK and provide their fingerprints and facial image prior to travelling to the UK.

UKBA will therefore collect the fingerprints and facial images at the UK border from visa national games family members to maintain a proportionate level of its usual security checks on this group of people during the games. The agency will only collect the fingerprints and facial image of visa national games family members that it identifies as not already possessing.

We are currently taking secondary legislation through Parliament to provide UKBA with the power to collect the fingerprints and facial images of the visa national games family members who are able to use their accreditation card in lieu of visa.

UKBA is also seeking to collect visa national games family members fingerprints and facial images before they travel to UK to take part in the games to reduce the amount of biometrics it needs to collect at the UK border during games time. A special visit visa, for which fingerprints and facial images have to be provided, is currently available to likely games family members, and we are also seeking to collect visa national games family members fingerprints and facial images on a voluntary basis overseas prior to games time.

The fingerprints and facial images collected from visa national games family members will be stored for 10 years then destroyed. If prior to the lapse of 10 years the person becomes a British citizen their fingerprints and facial image will be destroyed. This retention period mirrors UKBA's business as usual biometrics retention policy.

Crime Prevention: Young People

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department plans to allocate to the Positive Futures programme in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15. [64256]

Mrs May *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The Home Office has announced its intention to provide £5 million in 2012-13 to fund the frontline delivery of Positive Futures. No decisions have been made about levels of funding beyond that.

Crime: Business

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce crimes against businesses. [64414]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* The Home Office takes all crimes against businesses seriously and works with a range of organisations and partnerships to tackle business crime.

The Home Office also works closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Acquisitive Crime Programme Board and its sub groups to deliver across a range of crime types that affect businesses, in particular Cash and Valuables in Transit Robbery, Commercial Robbery and Metal Theft.

The Home Office co-chairs the National Retail Crime Steering Group, the national partnership to tackle crimes against retailers.

The Steering Group is delivering a work plan focused on crime priorities affecting retailers. This includes strengthening local partnerships between retailers and law enforcement agencies; taking steps to develop safe working and trading environments; supporting designing out crime techniques; and working with the criminal justice system to ensure that effective sanctions and deterrents to retail crime are available.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who have *(a)* served time in UK prisons and *(b)* been removed from the UK after serving time in UK prisons were (i) refused and (ii) granted entry into the UK in each of the last five years. [63855]

Damian Green: This answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Russia

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to prohibit the issue of visas to Russian officials alleged to be responsible for the *(a)* arrest, *(b)* torture and *(c)* death of Sergei Magnitsky. [65052]

Damian Green: As the Prime Minister has made clear, the Government remain very concerned by the circumstances surrounding Mr Magnitsky's death. It is important that the Russian authorities carry out a thorough and transparent investigation, given the serious allegations that have been raised. The Government welcomed the recent publication of the conclusions of the report by the Presidential Council for Human Rights, and hopes that the official investigation into this case announced by President Medvedev in November 2009 will soon be completed.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), does have the power to exclude foreign nationals whose presence in the UK she judges would not be conducive to the public good. Furthermore, all foreign nationals seeking entry to the UK must satisfy either an entry clearance officer overseas or an immigration officer at the port of arrival that they fully meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

However, the duty of confidentiality means that the Government are unable to discuss the details of individual immigration cases.

Human Trafficking

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the principal countries of origin of victims of human trafficking into the UK. [65244]

Damian Green: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) collects Information on a victim's nationality rather than their country of origin. An analysis of the NRM data from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011 shows that the following are the top seven nationalities for referrals, reasonable grounds and conclusive grounds decisions:

Referral

1. Nigerian
2. Chinese
3. Vietnamese
4. Romanian
5. Czech
6. Slovak
7. UK

Reasonable grounds

1. Nigerian
2. Vietnamese
3. Chinese
4. Romanian
5. Czech
6. Slovak
7. UK

Conclusive grounds

1. Romanian
2. Nigerian
3. Czech
4. UK
5. Slovak
6. Chinese
7. Vietnamese

Human Trafficking: Children

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as trafficked in the last 12 months; how many of those children have *(a)* seen (i) a qualified social worker and (ii) an advocate and *(b)* a nominated independent reviewing officer; and how many of them have lost contact with authorities before their case can be determined. [65851]

Damian Green: Between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011 a total of 217 children believed to be trafficked were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Of the 217 referrals of children to the NRM, seven absconded/went missing before a Conclusive Grounds Decision was made.

Information requested on the numbers of children who have seen a qualified social worker, an advocate and an independent reviewing officer is not centrally collected. However, all children who become looked after must be allocated a social worker and an independent reviewing officer. They should also have access to an advocate.

Identity Cards: Costs

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs to the public purse, in real terms, under the previous Administration, had been incurred in respect of the planned identity card scheme. [65628]

Damian Green: Between 2003 and March 2006, the Home Office spent a total of £41 million developing the policy, legislation and business case for ID cards. Responsibility for the National Identity Service (NIS) was transferred to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on its establishment in April 2006 and IPS spent a total of £251 million on set-up costs between April 2006 and March 2010.

Around £8 million was spent on delivering ID cards from their launch in October 2009 until the decommissioning of the NIS.

Immigration: Housing

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on social housing of any change to the habitual residence list. [65508]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The habitual residence test requires a person to demonstrate links with the United Kingdom and a sufficient degree of social and economic integration to justify eligibility for social housing. There are no plans to change the habitual residence test.

Knives: Crime

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1134W, on knives: crime, which voluntary and community organisations received funding from her Department in 2010-11 for the purposes of preventing young people's involvement in knife and gun crime. [65492]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* In 2010-11 the Home Office made funding available to 143 voluntary and community organisations working to prevent young people's involvement in knife and gun crime through the Community Fund. A list of the successful applicants to the fund can be found on the Home Office website.

Police Custody

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department was notified of the High Court ruling related to Greater Manchester Police vs Salford Magistrates Court. [65202]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Home Office was first notified of the oral ruling in this case on 25 May 2011. We received a written copy of the High Court Judgment from Greater Manchester Police on 17 June 2011.

Raed Salah

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether Sheikh Raed Salah was granted an entry clearance visa in June 2011; [63856]

(2) on what date the decision was taken to exclude Sheikh Raed Salah; [63857]

(3) on what date Sheikh Raed Salah was informed that he had been excluded from the UK; and what form that notification took; [63858]

(4) whether she was informed by the UK Border Agency that Sheikh Raed Salah had not been excluded successfully. [63859]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) *(a)* on what date and *(b)* at what time she signed the order banning Sheikh Raed Salah from the UK; [63862]

(2) what representations she received on the activities of Sheikh Raed Salah before she made the order banning him from entering the UK; and from whom each such representation was received. [63699]

Mrs May *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance I have considered it important to do so, and he had already put the details of his case into the public domain.

Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June as a result of numerous statements he had made, details of which were obtained from a variety of sources. As an Israeli national Mr Salah does not require a visa and he managed to enter the UK. He was on the Home Office watch list and should have been refused entry as a result of my exclusion decision. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary has investigated how this happened.

Mr Salah has been detained and the UK Border Agency is making arrangements to remove him.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date and at what time the UK Border Agency informed her Department that Sheikh Raed Salah had most recently entered the UK; [64087]

(2) on what date the UK Border Agency was informed that Sheikh Raed Salah was excluded from the UK; [64088]

(3) on what date Sheikh Raed Salah most recently entered the UK; [64089]

(4) in what country Sheikh Raed Salah was present on the date he was informed that he was excluded from the UK; [64090]

(5) on what date she was made aware that Sheikh Raed Salah was visiting the UK. [64091]

Mrs May *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance I have considered it is important to do so, and he had already put the details of his case into the public domain.

Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June as a result of numerous statements he had made, details of which were obtained from a variety of sources. As an Israeli national Mr Salah does not require a visa and he managed to enter the UK. He was on the Home Office watch list and should have been refused entry as a result of my exclusion decision. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary has investigated how this happened.

Mr Salah has been detained and the UK Border Agency is making arrangements to remove him.

Theft: Bicycles

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department is taking steps to improve the provision of security equipment for bicycles. [60971]

James Brokenshire: Police forces locally are responsible for dealing with the problem of bicycle theft. They can offer effective crime prevention advice to the public on measures to secure their belongings. Bicycle owners have an important part to play in ensuring that their bicycles are locked and secure at all times when not in their possession.

The Home Office Design and Technology Alliance worked with partners to sponsor a design challenge to encourage solutions to bike theft. The Home Office's new Forum for Innovation in Crime Prevention will continue to focus on new challenges and solutions to crime.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Complaints

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on naming a complainant against an hon. Member in the published determination of the complaint. [61805]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on naming a complainant against an hon. Member in the published determination of the complaint.

There is no legal obligation on the Compliance Officer to publish the names of complainants.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer is independent of the Authority's executive branch; for what reason the Compliance Officer conveyed to the Chairman of the Authority information relating to the number of notices of preliminary investigation which he had issued; and with how many other persons the Compliance Officer has communicated information relating to his office. [61806]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reason the Compliance Officer conveyed to the Chairman of the Authority information relating to the number of notices of preliminary investigation which he had issued; and with how many others he has communicated information relating to his office.

The Compliance Officer reports directly to the Chairman of IPSA's Board. In accordance with the Guidance to the Compliance Officer determined by IPSA under section 9A of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 "the Compliance Officer shall notify the MP and IPSA that a Preliminary Investigation is to be undertaken to ascertain if there is a reason for the Compliance Officer to believe that the MP may have been paid an amount under the Scheme that should not have been allowed".

The number of investigations has also been given to the National Audit Office.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what the average cost to the public purse has been of investigating each complaint made to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to date. [61807]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average cost to the public purse has been of investigating each complaint made to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to date.

As the recently appointed Compliance Officer, I am as yet unable to identify the precise cost of each investigation. I am, however, acutely mindful of the proportionality of our investigations, whilst recognising that I am required to act in accordance with statute.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what target the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has set for *(a)* the issue of a notice of preliminary investigation by its Compliance Officer following (i) a public complaint and (ii) work carried out in his office, *(b)* concluding the investigation; and *(c)* conveying the result of the investigation to (A) the hon. or right hon. Member concerned and (B) the person who made the complaint. [61808]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what target the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has set for (a) the issue of a notice of preliminary investigation by its Compliance Officer following (i) a public complaint and (ii) work carried out in his office, (b) concluding the investigation; and (c) conveying the result of the investigation to (A) the hon. or right hon. Member concerned and (B) the person who made the complaint.

As the independent Compliance Officer for IPSA, I am responsible for setting my own targets

(a) (i) Each complaint is assessed on a case by case basis.

(ii) A range of targets exist for different activities carried out by my office.

(b) The target for completing an investigation is 120 days (sixty days for the preliminary investigation and sixty days for the substantive investigation).

(c) No target has been set for conveying the result of an investigation to (A) the honourable or right honourable Member concerned or (B) the person who made the complaint. However, I would endeavour to relay the result to all parties as quickly as possible.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 587W, on Members: complaints, on what dates the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Office issued each of the notices of preliminary investigation arising from the work carried out by its office. [61811]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking on what dates the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Office issued each of the notices of preliminary investigations arising from the work carried out by its office.

The first notices of preliminary investigation were issued on 13 April 2011.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority on what dates the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer *(a)* commenced and *(b)* concluded his investigations in respect of notices served following the complaints received on (i) 2 December 2010, (ii) 20 December 2010, (iii) 21 December 2010, (iv) 16 January 2011 and (v) 9 February 2011. [61812]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, Compliance Officer, dated July 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking on what dates the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer (a) commenced and (b) concluded investigations in respect of notices served following the complaints received on (i) 2 December 2010, (ii) 20 December 2010, (iii) 21 December 2010, (iv) 16 January 2011 and (v) 9 February 2011

For investigations commenced on 13 April 2011, all cases remain open with the exception of the complaint of 21 December 2010, where the preliminary investigation has concluded.

Schemes

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what definition of public confidence the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses in assessing the effectiveness of its schemes. [62624]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what definition of public confidence the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses in assessing the effectiveness of its schemes.

There is no established standard definition of public confidence in political science. IPSA has therefore taken the approach to interpret it as meaning in respect of our schemes, confidence amongst the population at large, as perceived subjectively by each individual, that IPSA by means of a) clear, published rules on MPs' expenses, b) IPSA's rigorous governance and processes and c) transparency around IPSA's work and MPs' expense claims, is dispersing public funds efficiently and effectively to support MPs in carrying out their parliamentary functions.

Work Experience

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many interns the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has on *(a)* casual and *(b)* fixed-term contracts. [62934]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many interns the independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has on (a) casual and (b) fixed-term contracts.

IPSA does not employee any interns, either on a casual or on a fixed-term basis.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of funds generated from the Crown Estate was spent on the development and installation of low-carbon technologies in the last year for which figures are available. [65408]

Justine Greening: During 2010-11 the Crown Estate's capital expenditure on the facilitation and implementation of low carbon technologies was nearly £20 million.

Conditions of Employment

Dr Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what uses his Department has made of the annual survey of hours and earnings data produced by the Office for National Statistics in the last three years. [65287]

Justine Greening: Officials across the Treasury make occasional use of the annual survey of hours and earnings data to inform policy development. As there is no single user of these data at the Treasury, to answer this question in full would entail disproportionate costs.

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the sum to be contributed by the UK to financial stabilisation of the Republic of Ireland; and what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of Northern Ireland of such contributions. [65213]

Mr Hoban: The international financial assistance package for Ireland agreed in December 2010 included: a €22.5 billion loan from the IMF, of which €7.2 billion has been disbursed; a €22.5 billion loan from the EFSM, of which €11.4 billion has been disbursed; a €17.5 billion loan from the EFSF, of which €3.6 billion has been disbursed; and, €5 billion of bilateral loans from the UK, Sweden and Denmark.

The UK's exposure breaks down as follows:

A bilateral loan of £3.227 billion is available to Ireland. The loan cannot be drawn until after the approval of the third quarterly review of Ireland's Memorandum of Understanding with the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission. The review is expected to take place in August.

The European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) is financed by the European Commission raising funds on capital markets, guaranteed by the EU Budget. There is no direct impact on the EU Budget from any such borrowing by the Commission. Only in the event that a beneficiary member state defaults on loan repayments would the EU Budget be adversely affected. In those circumstances, member states would be liable for a share based on their contribution to the EU Budget at that time. Contributions to the EU Budget vary over time, mainly driven by the member states' share in the EU's Gross National Income. For this reason, it is not possible to state exactly the UK liability. As an illustrative example, based on contributions to the 2010 EU Budget, the UK's share would be approximately 14%.

It is not possible to provide an estimate of the UK's contribution to specific IMF programmes. The UK contributes funds to the IMF as a whole rather than to any country-specific IMF programme. Our ultimate exposure to any IMF lending programme would be in line with our quota shareholding, i.e. around 4.5%.

It is in our national interest that the Irish economy is successful and its banking system is stable. Ireland accounts for 6% of Britain's total exports—we export more to Ireland than to Brazil, Russia, India and China put together. By offering Ireland a bilateral loan, Britain is recognising the important economic relationship between Britain and Ireland, including between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of his communications to local authorities on the increase in the pay of public sector workers whose income does not exceed £21,000. [65356]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: Local Government pay is a matter for free collective bargaining between local authority employers and unions, primarily through the National Joint Council.

The Chancellor has had no communication with local authorities regarding the increase in pay of public sector workers whose income does not exceed £21,000.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the *(a)* tourism, *(b)* heritage and *(c)* sporting industries of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [65715]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic impact of the VAT rate increase on these sectors.

WALES

Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the First Minister of Wales and *(b)* Ministers at the Department of Energy and Climate Change on devolving decision-making on consents for energy projects with a generating capacity up to 100 megawatts; and if she will publish the minutes of any such meetings; [65461]

(2) what her policy is on the devolution of decision-making on consents for electricity projects with a generating capacity up to 100 megawatts; and if she will make a statement. [65464]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) and I have had a number of informal discussions with Ministers at the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the First Minister on a range of issues relating to energy policy including consents for energy projects. As these were informal discussions, no minutes were taken.

The Government shares the view of the previous administration that the system of consents for electricity projects with a generating capacity in excess of 50 megawatts should be one that minimises delay and commands investor confidence. This is most effectively achieved by a common consents regime for major infrastructure in England and Wales.

Ministerial Meetings

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department had which were attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011; [65996]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department have attended since her appointment which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB. [66009]

Mr David Jones: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally discussed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of earlier today.

Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had on the development of marine and tidal energy generation in Wales. [65462]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have discussed the development of marine and tidal generation in Wales with the Minister of State for Energy, the First Minister for Wales and a variety of interested parties.

We believe that Wales has a vital role to play in generating marine and tidal energy, as the Government's approval of the 1.2 MW 'Deltastream' test device situated off the coast of Pembrokeshire demonstrates.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has discussed with Ministers in the Department of Energy and Climate Change the development of low-carbon energy technologies in Wales; and if she will publish the minutes of any such meetings. [65463]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have had a number of informal discussions with Ministers from the Department of Energy and Climate Change on energy policy, and in particular the development of low-carbon technologies in Wales. As these were informal discussions, no minutes were taken.

Welfare State: Reform

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the effect of planned welfare reforms on recipients of incapacity benefit in Wales; [65468]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect on people in Wales of the Government's proposed welfare reforms. [65469]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) has had, and will continue to have, discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), on a range of measures included in our programme for welfare reform.

The Welfare Reform Bill, introduced in the Commons on 16 February 2011, proposes the most fundamental reforms to the social security system for 60 years. It will deliver a system throughout Wales and Britain that is simpler, fairer and ensures that work always pays.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individuals filed for bankruptcy in (i) York, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [65614]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service does not compile figures for bankruptcy petitions; statistics for orders made at this level of geography are available from 2000; the latest available figures currently are those for 2009. The additional breakdown into those bankruptcies as a result of trading debts (business bankruptcies) and those among other individuals (consumers) is only readily available from 2007. The available statistics are shown in the following table:

Table 1: Bankruptcies in York, Yorkshire and the Humber, England: 2000-09[1]

	York (Unitary Authority)			*Yorkshire and the Humber (GOR)*			*England*		
	Traders	*Consumers*	*Total*	*Traders*	*Consumers*	*Total*	*Traders*	*Consumers*	*Total*
2000	n/a	n/a	61	n/a	n/a	2,163	n/a	n/a	17,537
2001	n/a	n/a	55	n/a	n/a	2,573	n/a	n/a	19,965
2002	n/a	n/a	66	n/a	n/a	2,603	n/a	n/a	20,891
2003	n/a	n/a	71	n/a	n/a	2,882	n/a	n/a	24,838
2004	n/a	n/a	103	n/a	n/a	3,431	n/a	n/a	32,223
2005	n/a	n/a	134	n/a	n/a	4,270	n/a	n/a	43,093
2006	n/a	n/a	214	n/a	n/a	5,812	n/a	n/a	57,564
2007	18	167	185	661	5,294	5,955	6,433	52,802	59,235
2008	27	171	198	697	5,963	6,660	7,425	54,570	61,995
2009	28	208	236	855	6,374	7,229	8,902	59,587	68,489

n/a = Not available.

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 87.6% in 2000 rising to 97.1% in 2009).

Business: Loans

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in York received Government guarantees on bank loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee *(a)* between May 2009 and May 2010 and *(b)* between May 2010 and May 2011; and what the total monetary value of the loans guaranteed was in each case. [65620]

Mr Prisk: In the period May 2009 to May 2010, there were 16 Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) loans to businesses in York with a drawn down loan value of £0.94 million. Between May 2010 and April 2011, there were 13 EFG loans to businesses in York with a drawn down value of £1.58 million. A full breakdown by each period follows:

16 EFG loans between May 2009 and April 2010

£96,663.00

£24,000.00

£7,000.00

£83,230.00

£81,200.00

£25,250.00

£24,673.80

£20,300.00

£36,440.08

£32,327.75
£50,500.00
£47,000.00
£12,750.00
£41,100.00
£350,000.00
£10,175.00
Total loans £0.94 million

13 EFG loans between May 2010 and April 2011

£20,400.00
£51,000.00
£107,060.00
£850,000.00
£60,900.00
£22,000.00
£150,000.00
£10,000.00
£120,000.00
£55,550.00
£25,375.00
£30,000.00
£75,617.50
Total loans £1.58 million

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the level of bank lending to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Islwyn constituency. [65685]

Mr Prisk: We collect data from the four largest retail banks on lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is published by the Bank of England in its quarterly "Trends in Lending" publication; further details can be found at:

www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

Additionally, the British Banking Association's Business Finance Taskforce has brought together leading banks to commission an independent and authoritative study of SME finance and banking relationships. The first instalment of this quarterly report was published on 11 July as the SME Finance Monitor, and can be found at:

http://www.bdrc.co.uk/business-issues/sme-finance-monitor/sme-finance-monitor-reports

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65404]

Mr Prisk: In the six months after 1 September 2010, 11 regulations have been introduced which do not impose costs to business.

In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, seven regulations have been introduced which do not impose costs to business.

The Government's policy is to consider alternatives to regulation. A list of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65405]

Mr Prisk: The one-in one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force until January 2011.

A list of regulatory measures introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

The following regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address emergencies. These have zero net effect to business and the economy;

The Export Control (Amendment) (No.3) Order 2011 (SI 2011/1127)

This Introduced new controls on the export to the US of certain specified human and veterinary medicinal products which can be used to execute prisoners on death row by lethal injection: thiopental sodium, pancuronium bromide, potassium chloride and sodium pentobarbital—came into force 16 April 2011

The Export Control (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI 2011/543)

The Libyan bank notes—came into force 27 February 2011

The Export Control (Libya) Order 2011 (SI 2011/825)

Provides for enforcement of certain provisions of EU sanctions against Libya—came into force 18 March 2011.

The Export Control (Syria and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2011 (SI 2011/1304)

Provides for enforcement of certain provisions of EU sanctions against Syria—came into force 25 May 2011.

Business Surveys

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department next plans to undertake a small business survey; and what schedule he has put in place for small business surveys to 2015. [65909]

Mr Davey: The most recent BIS small business survey was published in May 2011 and current practice is to undertake this large scale survey every two years.

In addition BIS undertakes a range of regular surveys and other research relating to small businesses, details of which can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation

Business: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of companies in Yorkshire and the Humber that exported goods or services to *(a)* other EU countries and *(b)* non-EU countries (i) between May 2009 and May 2010 and (ii) between May 2010 and 2011. [65678]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

Number of companies exporting goods from Yorkshire and The Humber: 2009-11

	2009					*2010*					*2011*
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total 2009*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total 2010*	*Q1*
Exporting to EU	1,390	1,364	1,356	1,405	1,597	1,379	1,374	1,410	1,436	1,635	1,386
Exporting to non-EU	3,169	3,355	3,207	3,290	4,994	3,158	3,323	3,421	3,380	4,939	3,158
Total Exporter Count	3,559	3,686	3,530	3,630	5,280	3,494	3,630	3,746	3,736	5,231	3,509

Notes:

1. Only those companies trading above the Intrastat threshold are included under 'Exporting to EU'. Companies below this threshold do not have to make Intrastat trade declarations to HMRC.
2. All counts are based on the Regional Trade Statistics (RTS) methodology.
3. The RTS is published quarterly, Q1 is January-March; Q2 is April-June; Q3 is July-September; and Q4 is October-December.
4. The latest RTS publication is first quarter (Q1) 2011.
5. Where quarterly company counts are indicated, the figures reflect the number of companies active in that quarter. The annual total company counts do not correspond to the sum of the quarterly company counts, but to the count of unique companies active at any time during the year.

Source:

HM Revenue and Customs, Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)

The data supplied relate only to companies that have traded in goods.

Special Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62081]

Mr Davey: Expense claims by special advisers during the period 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 amount to £681.28.

The Department has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Offices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the capacity of his Department's new local offices to cover more than one administrative region in England. [65749]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* The BIS Local teams' geographic coverage is based on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) geography. In areas which span more than one previous administrative region, the teams have dual locations in order to provide the most effective coverage within the resources allocated.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether electrical showers are categorised as fixed installations under the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive 2002/96/EC amended by 2003/108/EC as transposed into UK regulations; and if he will make a statement. [65860]

Mr Prisk: The scope of the EC Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive has been problematic since its adoption at the end of 2002. There is no direct reference to an exemption for 'fixed installations' in the directive, but the European Commission's guidance does allow for one in its interpretation of Article 2.1.

The Department's understanding is that a simple electric shower fitted into a bathroom as a discrete or stand-alone unit would not be regarded as a fixed installation and would, therefore, be caught within the scope of the Directive and UK Regulations. A power shower that has controls in the bathroom but a remote pump and/or water heater fitted elsewhere in the building would be regarded as part of a fixed installation and, therefore, outside scope.

European negotiations on a recast of the original directive are underway and we are hoping for greater clarity on this and other scope issues once a new directive is agreed.

Enterprise Promotion

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage enterprise promotion activities in disadvantaged areas. [61100]

Mr Prisk: The Government are leading a series of measures which will promote enterprise and which will be of particular help to disadvantaged areas.

In October 2010 the Government announced that the first Local Enterprise Partnerships were ready to move forward and establish their local enterprise partnership boards. The Partnerships will play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local/localenterprisepartnerships/

In October 2010 the Government also launched the New Enterprise Allowance to support unemployed people to start their own business.

The allowance is available to Jobseekers Allowance customers who have been claiming for 26 weeks or more. Participants have access to a volunteer business mentor to provide guidance and support as they develop their business plan and through the early months of trading. Once a customer can demonstrate they have a viable business proposition with the potential for growth in the future, they can access financial support.

This will consist of:

a weekly allowance worth £1,274 over 26 weeks, paid at £65 a week for the first 13 weeks and £33 a week for a further 13 weeks, and

if they need start-up capital, they may also be able to access a loan up to £1,000 to help with their start-up costs.

Details can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/new-enterprise-allowance/

In November 2010 the Government announced that we will remove barriers preventing social tenants from applying to start up a business based in their home and will work with social landlords to encourage their tenants to develop entrepreneurial skills.

In July 2011 the Government announced the launch of a new mentoring scheme, developed in partnership with the private sector, to improve access to, and stimulate the demand for, mentoring. Developing and established businesses will now have access to more knowledge and support through a brand new web portal:

www.mentorsme.co.uk

Environmental Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress his Department has made on the green economy roadmap. [65825]

Mr Prisk: The green economy roadmap will now be published at the end of July. This Department has worked with the other lead Departments—Department of Energy and Climate Change and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—to finalise the content and ensure it reflects the latest developments on major initiatives such as the Green Investment Bank and the energy market reforms package. The draft roadmap document has been discussed with a number of stakeholders, including business, and the Green Economy Council, to ensure we have a clear vision and coherent framework.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Public Appointments

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each local enterprise partnership in respect of which approval of the board membership has been given; what the name is of each member of each such partnership representing *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* higher education; what the name is of each partnership for which approval of board membership is pending; and what the name is of each partnership which is not in a position for board membership to be approved. [65220]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

Local enterprise partnership boards formally recognised by Government

Information regarding board membership can be found on each partnership's website as follows:

	Website
The Black Country	http://www.the-blackcountry.com/default.asp?PageID=287&n=Black+Countrv+LEP+Board
Cheshire and Warrington	http://www.cwea.org.uk/lep
Coast to Capital	http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/articles/the-board.html
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=24697
Coventry and Warwickshire	http://www.cwlep.com/Default.aspx?id=519359
Cumbria	http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk/boardprofiles.php
Enterprise M3	http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/business/business-support-and-advice/lep/
Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough	http://www.yourlocalenterprisepartnership.co.uk/board
Greater Manchester	http://www.agma.gov.uk/local-enterprise-partnership/lep-update-apil-2011/index.html
Leeds City Region	http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/lepboard.htm
Oxfordshire City Region	http://www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk/wps/wcm/connect/micro/LEP/About/People/
Sheffield City Region	http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/lepboard
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire[1]	http://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/a/
West of England	http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/?p=33
Worcestershire[2]	http://www.worcestershirelep.org/board.aspx
York and North Yorkshire	http://www.ynylep.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=2

[1] In addition to those listed on this page Paul Richards and Simon Morris share a seat and represent higher education.

[2] Peter Pawsey, the LEP chair, is also part of the board but not listed on this page.

For the following two partnerships the board information is not available online:

	Local authority representatives	*Business representatives*	*Higher education representatives*
Greater Lincolnshire	Eddy Poll Doreen Stephenson	Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) David Dexter	Mary Stuart

	Local authority representatives	*Business representatives*	*Higher education representatives*
	Richard Wills	Chris Baron Neil Corner Herman Kok Mark Tinsley	
New Anglia	Mark Bee David Ellesmere Derrick Murphy Alan Waters	Andy Wood (Chair) Erika Clegg David Gledhill Mark Goodall Mark Jeffries David Marsh	Edward Acton

Local enterprise partnerships with board approvals pending with the Government:

Greater Birmingham and Solihull

The Solent

Local enterprise partnerships still developing their permanent boards:

Derby Derbyshire Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Dorset

Gloucestershire

Heart of the South West

Hertfordshire

Hull and the Humber

Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex

Lancashire

Leicester and Leicestershire

Liverpool City Region

London

The Marches

North Eastern

South East Midlands

Tees Valley

Thames Valley Berkshire

Military Aircraft: Exports

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions with other governments *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had on the export of (i) Hawk Mk. 128 and (ii) Eurofighter Typhoon Aircraft. [64892]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* During a visit to Japan in June the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), discussed Typhoon with the Japanese Government. I was present with the Prime Minister on 28 July 2010 at the signing of the agreement to supply 57 Hawk trainer aircraft to India. Ministers from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and from a range of other Departments, regularly discuss Typhoon and Hawk exports, as well as other defence and security export prospects with their counterparts overseas, and will continue to do so in line with this Government's commitment to promote responsible defence exports.

Pay

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what uses his Department has made of the annual survey of hours and earnings data produced by the Office for National Statistics in the last three years. [65289]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has used ASHE for analysis of the low paid and National Minimum Wage Policy. ASHE has also been used for briefing Ministers on levels of earnings, hours worked and gender pay differences.

THQ Digital Studios

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011 to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on THQ, what discussions UK Trade and Investment officials have had with representatives of the video games industry on the closure of THQ's Warrington studios. [64170]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* No officials from UK Trade and Investment have had any discussions with representatives of the video games industry specifically regarding the closure of THQ's Warrington studios.

UKTI and Department for Culture, Media and Sport officials have regular discussions regarding the state of the UK games industry with TIGA, the trade association representing the UK's games industry and the Association for UK Interactive Entertainment (UKIE), the UK's leading videogames trade body.

HEALTH

Abortion: Counselling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what means he proposes to effect changes to the regulation of the provision of counselling for women seeking abortions; [65272]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of preventing organisations which provide abortion services from providing pregnancy counselling services. [65273]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1269W, to the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton (Jim Dobbin).

Detailed proposals on how independent abortion counselling might be implemented are still being worked up within the Department; this includes development of an impact assessment. An offer of independent counselling will be in addition to the assessment of whether there are grounds for an abortion under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended. All clinicians who provide abortion care should always undertake a discussion about the choices available to pregnant women and identify those who require more support in decision-making.

Cancer

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of cancer. [65150]

Paul Burstow: To reduce the incidence of cancer we will need to continue to tackle the risk factors. Many of these risk factors are rooted in lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, the harmful use of alcohol, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight and physically inactive.

Last year, the Government published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", which set out our strategy for improving public health. This includes the establishment of a new, dedicated, professional public health service—Public Health England—which will be set up to take action to promote public health and to encourage behaviour change to help people live healthier lives.

Following on from the public health White Paper, the Government published its Tobacco Control Plan, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" in March, which sets out how tobacco control will be delivered over the next five years. New United Kingdom-wide physical activity guidelines were launched on 11 July as part of a UK Chief Medical Officers' report which details the latest evidence on the physical activity required to achieve general health benefits and prevent diseases, including some cancers. We will be publishing a document on obesity shortly after the summer. It will set out how obesity will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems and the role of key partners. An alcohol strategy will follow later this year.

The NHS cervical screening programme continues to play an important role in reducing the incidence of cervical cancer in women. The programme prevents cervical cancers by detecting and treating abnormalities which, if left undetected and untreated, may develop into cancer. Experts estimate it saves up to 4,500 lives per year. As set out in "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" (January 2011) we have committed to invest £60 million between 2011 and 2014 to incorporate flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) into the NHS bowel screening programme. New evidence has shown that a one-off FS screening test for bowel cancer at age 55 can reduce the incidence of bowel cancer in people attending screening by 33%. Experts estimate FS will save around 3,000 lives every year.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the national clinical audit recommended in Improving Outcomes: a Strategy for Cancer will be implemented; and when the results will be published. [65231]

Paul Burstow: The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), which works under contract to maintain and develop the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcome Programme, published a call for new national clinical audit topics in March 2011. The Department will consider the proposals received following advice from the National Clinical Audit Advisory Group. Further information on the call for new national clinical audits can be found on the HQIP website:

www.hqip.org.uk/new-topic-proposals-for-national-clinical-audits-process-201/

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place for patients to continue to access medicines through the Cancer Drugs Fund once the present fund is exhausted. [65232]

Paul Burstow: We have committed £600 million to the Cancer Drugs Fund over the next three years which will help thousands more cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. This is a significant injection of funding for additional cancer drugs. Strategic health authorities and their clinical panels are responsible for ensuring that this additional funding is employed to best effect, and should take account of the likely costs of future treatment in their planning.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the transfer of funding supplied through the Cancer Drugs Fund between regions. [65233]

Paul Burstow: We expect regional strategic health authority (SHA) clinical panels to plan according to their allocated shares of the available funding. The Department will monitor SHA spend from the Cancer Drugs Fund and transfers between SHAs can be considered if a good reason arises.

Cerebral Palsy: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been treated by the NHS for cerebral palsy selective dorsal rhizotomy in the last three years; [65145]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy selective dorsal rhizotomy in the last three years; [65146]

(3) if he will make available on the NHS in England a treatment for cerebral palsy selective dorsal rhizotomy similar to that available in the US. [65147]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed, and treated, for cerebral palsy selective dorsal rhizotomy is not collected centrally.

In December 2010, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence revised their existing guidance on selective dorsal rhizotomy because they now had a greater evidence base regarding its safety and efficacy. They recommend that the operation can improve the comfort and mobility of some people who have cerebral palsy. However, the operation still carries some serious risks and is not a cure for spasticity. Funding for this procedure is a matter for local health bodies.

Dementia

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of dementia there were in each of the last three years. [65148]

Paul Burstow: Data on new diagnoses of dementia are not collected. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) collects each year the number of patients on the dementia register in general practices. The figures for the latest three years are shown in the following table.

	Number on dementia register
2007-08	220,246
2008-09	232,430
2009-10	249,463

Note:
Coverage of QOF—Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.

We believe however that these figures underestimate the actual number of people in England who have dementia and it is estimated that approximately 650,000 people in England have the condition. Because of this level of under-diagnosis, one of the Government's priority objectives in implementing the National Dementia Strategy is increasing the early diagnosis of dementia.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has issued any guidance on the generation of low-carbon energy on estates owned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS; [65459]

(2) if he will explore the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on his estate. [65460]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any specific guidance on the generation of low-carbon energy on estates owned by the Department, although guidance is received from the Carbon Trust though the Carbon Management Programme.

The Department has issued "Health Technical Memorandum 07-02 Encode, making energy work in healthcare" and "HTM 07-07 Sustainable Health and Social Care Buildings", which have been placed in the Library. Both documents encourage the national health service to consider a wide range of low-carbon energy opportunities. The NHS also takes guidance from the Carbon Trust through the Carbon Management Programme and is further informed through the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, which is supported by the Department.

The Department will look to explore the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on its estate in this financial year.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65307]

Mr Simon Burns: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, no regulations were introduced by the Department which impact on businesses.

In the six months after 1 September 2010, two regulations Care Quality Commission registration and Health service Branded Medicines have been introduced which do not impose a cost on businesses.

The Government's policy is to consider alternatives to regulation. A list of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 that impact business can be found in the Statement of New Regulation, which has already been placed in the Library.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65324]

Mr Simon Burns: In the period from September 2010 to December 2010 no regulations were introduced or removed by the Department that impact on business. A list of regulatory measures that impact on business that were introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation, which has already been placed in the Library,

The one-in one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force until January 2011.

No regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address emergencies and systemic financial risks.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65340]

Mr Simon Burns: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, no regulations were introduced or removed that impose costs on businesses.

General Practitioners: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are per head of population in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Newton Abbot constituency. [63362]

Mr Simon Burns: Information about the number of general practitioners (GPs) at a constituency level is not held by the Department. The Department holds information about GP numbers at primary care trust (PCT) and care trust level. The data for the three such trusts in Devon are in the following table.

Number of GPs in Devon

	All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) headcount[1]	All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) headcount per 100,000 population
Total Devon[2]	917	80.6
Of which:		
Devon PCT[2]	621	83.1
Plymouth Teaching PCT	196	76.4
Torbay Care Trust	100	74.6

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data are not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.

[2] The area of Devon is serviced by Devon PCT, Plymouth PCT and Torbay PCT. A sub-total of the three PCTs has been provided. GP workforce data are not available at constituency level. In England, only local PCTs and Strategic Health Authorities. Newton Abbot is contained within and serviced by Devon PCT.

Notes:

1. Data as at 30 September 2010.
2. GP per head of population figures have been calculated using Office for National Statistic resident population estimates.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Office for National Statistics, 2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based), Adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology

Health Services

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to mandate a timetable for the formation of clinical senates and specialist commissioning networks. [65810]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report set out a revised timetable for changes in the national health service, recognising the need for flexibility in transitioning to the new system.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be established formally by October 2012 with a limited set of functions, in order to start considering applications for authorisation from clinical commissioning groups. By April 2013, the NHS Commissioning Board will have taken on its full responsibilities, and general practitioner practices will be members of either an authorised clinical commissioning group, or a 'shadow' commissioning group (one that is legally established but operating only in shadow form, with the NHS Commissioning Board commissioning on its behalf).

Clinical commissioning groups will receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services, in order to provide the best care and outcomes for patients. The NHS Commissioning Board will work with stakeholders and the NHS Future Forum on the detailed design of clinical senates and networks, and we will publish further details in due course.

NHS Debt: Greater London

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* debt and *(b)* revenue budget balance has been of each NHS hospital trust in greater London in each of the last four years. [65478]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The following tables show:

(a) the total amount owed by national health service trusts in London in respect of bank overdrafts, current and long term loans, obligations under finance leases and private finance initiative arrangements for each financial year 2007-10; and

(b) the revenue budget balance (surplus/operating deficit) of each NHS hospital trust in London for each financial year 2007- 11.

NHS hospital trust debt as at 31 March 2007-10

				£000
Organisation	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	269,040
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	55,144	52,975	49,565	48,972
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0	0	12,151
Barts and The London NHS Trust	7,218	6,766	5,845	170,458
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	112,814	111,873	110,858	n/a
Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust	0	0	n/a	n/a
Central and North West London MH NHS Trust	0	0	n/a	n/a
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	220
East London and the City MH NHS Trust	0	0	n/a	n/a
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,000	9,334	4,816	1,782
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0	0	24,000
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	0	139	0	34,448
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75	1,513	118	34,381
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000	7,334	3,668	0

NHS hospital trust debt as at 31 March 2007-10

£000

Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	36,604
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0	0	n/a
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	15,000	12,000	9,000	6,399
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	23,830	19,064	14,298	82,462
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	n/a
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	6,112	6,112	6,110	n/a
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	0	0	0	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	6,176	5,996	5,816	7,069
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	234,072
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0	0	0
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	34,000	31,972	23,978	71,635
St Mary's NHS Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	20,337
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	55,971
The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	2,100	0	1,268
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0	0	0
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	0	0	15,800	57,364
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	43,185	32,071	28,704	24,248
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	40,802

Note:

'Debt' can be interpreted in a number of ways in relation to the finances of NHS trusts. We have interpreted 'debt' to mean the total amount reported by each NHS trust in their balance sheet in respect of bank overdrafts, loans, finance leases and Private finance initiative arrangements. These are the items most readily identified with the term 'debt' in accounting terminology.

Source:

Department of Health audited summarisation schedules, 2006-07 to 2009-10

The revenue budget balance (surplus/operating deficit) of each NHS hospital trust in London for each financial year 2007-11

£000

Organisation code	*Trust name*	*2007-08 annual accounts surplus/ (deficit)*	*2008-09 annual accounts surplus/ (operating deficit)*	*2009-10 annual accounts surplus (operating deficit)*	*2010-11 annual accounts surplus/ (operating deficit)*
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	(35,621)	(26,214)	(22,309)	(32,986)
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,611	155	5,069	3,154
RRP	Barnet. Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	2,014	40	239	274
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	16,416	10,502	11,423	6,012
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	(17,920)	(4,434)	n/a	n/a
TAF	Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust[1]	2,595	n/a	n/a	n/a
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust[2]	850	n/a	n/a	n/a
RYX	Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,198
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	1,135	2,125	36	28
RWK	East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust[4]	10,428	n/a	n/a	n/a
RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	827	4,902	2,877	3,332
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	6,956	5,889	7,368	8,617
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust[5]	12,750	12,025	9,102	5,146
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	2,713	807	2,412	2,724
RRU	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	398	725	1,425	1,002
RJ6	Croydon Health Services NHS Trust[6]	5,044	2,149	1,106	4,913
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	(2,269)	201	55	(7,913)
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust[7]	2,136	379	n/a	n/a
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,019	5,031	6,044	3,103
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	1,030	1,327	(8,025)	258
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(3,125)	(5,481)	n/a	n/a
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(2,877)	(10,991)	n/a	n/a
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust[8]	3,566	3,173	547	n/a
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	10,724	3,791	2,035	6,587
RYQ	South London Healthcare NHS Trust[9]	n/a	n/a	(42,067)	(40,865)

The revenue budget balance (surplus/operating deficit) of each NHS hospital trust in London for each financial year 2007-11

£000

Organisation code	Trust name	2007-08 annual accounts surplus/ (deficit)	2008-09 annual accounts surplus/ (operating deficit)	2009-10 annual accounts surplus (operating deficit)	2010-11 annual accounts surplus/ (operating deficit)
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	1,738	1,716	2,286	2,579
RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	5,972	1,718	12,933	6,459
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	6,263	2,509	258	307
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	3,771	301	6,753	1,058
RAN	The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	1,109	483	1,026	(911)
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	2,279	352	1,167	3,970
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	19	(3,486)	(4,996)	214
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospitals NHS Trust	828	1,710	229	395
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	1,421	2,045	139	508

[1] Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 March 2008.

[2] Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 May 2007.

[3] Rebranding of Central West London Community Services to Central London Community Healthcare completed in July 2009. Central London Community Healthcare NHS (RYX) was established on 1 November 2010.

[4] East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 November 2007.

[5] Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was formed from St Mary's NHS Trust and Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust.

[6] Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust has changed its name to Croydon Health Services NHS Trust (RJ6) on the 1 October 2010.

[7] North East London Mental Health NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 June 2008.

[8] Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust achieved Foundation Trust status on 1 June 2009.

[9] South London Healthcare Trust was formed from the merger of Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust (RG2), Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust (RG3), and Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust (RGZ).

Note:

The 2010-11 figures for South London Healthcare NHS Trust are based on their Draft accounts.

Source:

NHS Final Accounts, NHS Financial Controller's Office—Department of Health

Health Services: Special Educational Needs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means NHS commissioners will obtain expert advice and support from speech and language therapists to improve integration between provision of health services and education services for those with special educational needs. [65857]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government want the full range of health and care professionals to be involved in the new commissioning arrangements, supporting the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report makes clear that they will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant. Clinical commissioning groups will also receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services. Clinical networks and senates will have a wide range of multi-disciplinary input, including from allied health professionals, to support the better integration of services.

Clinical commissioning groups will be supported and held to account by a national NHS Commissioning Board. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for issuing guidance to commissioning groups on their duty to obtain appropriate professional advice, for example in relation to working with clinical networks and senates.

Hospital Admissions: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to *(a)* Newton Abbot Hospital, *(b)* Dawlish hospital and *(c)* Teignmouth hospital in the latest year for which figures are available. [63363]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is not able to provide data at hospital site level. The following table provides figures for activity provided by Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) within which Newton Abbot hospital, Dawlish hospital and Teignmouth hospital, and other hospitals are located. The England figure is provided for comparison.

Count of finished admission episodes[1] for activity provided by Devon PCT and England 2009-10

	Number
Activity provided by 5QQ Devon PCT	14,962
England	14,537,712

[1] Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes.

Notes:

1. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. It should be noted that activity provided by Devon PCT is not the same as activity commissioned by this PCT. Activity provided by the PCT only covers in-patient activity in hospital beds owned by the PCT.
3. The latest published annual Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data are for 2009-10.
4. It should be noted that the number of finished admission episodes does not relate to people as an individual may have had more than one admission to hospital in a year.

Source:

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has undertaken on the spread of MRSA and C. difficile in hospitals; and what the findings of this research are. [65158]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department funds, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme (PRP), a range of research relevant to antibiotic resistant micro-organisms in health care settings, including Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile (C. difficile).

For example, through the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Translational Infection Research Initiative, a group of researchers based at Oxford university have been working on establishing how revolutionary new technologies can be optimally integrated into microbiology research and service.

Researchers have identified whole genome sequencing as an appropriate initial typing strategy for four pathogens, including MRSA and C. difficile. Translating this whole genome sequencing data to the investigation of pathogen infections has started to give rise to improved understanding of patterns of spread, mechanisms of resistance, evolution and basic biology.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65302]

Anne Milton: There is a vital role for health services to play in identifying and responding to the needs of human trafficking victims. The Department of Health is therefore working with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and others, to improve the response from health services to victims of trafficking.

The Department has allocated £80,000 to work with the Women's Health and Equality Consortium on a project to agree specific actions to promote greater awareness of human trafficking and provide health professionals with guidance on how to respond to victims appropriately. The project is due to commence in summer 2011. As part of this work, the Department is seeking to provide more health services/professionals with the training and skills to refer potential victims directly into the National Referral Mechanism. The Department has also recognised the need for better understanding of the issues around health and trafficking and has therefore invited bids for research in this area, due to commence in 2011. The Royal College of General Practitioners has also been commissioned to develop an e-learning course on violence against women and children which will include trafficking.

Medical Equipment

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place in the NHS to ascertain the professional skills and standards of surgical instrument contractors. [65247]

Mr Simon Burns: No separate assessment is made of the professional skills of individuals employed by surgical instrument suppliers to the national health service.

Manufacturers of surgical equipment must ensure that their devices meet the relevant safety, quality and performance requirements laid down in the European Union (EU) medical devices directive prior to placement on the United Kingdom market. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has a role in the surveillance and enforcement of the regulation of devices placed in the UK and will assess all allegations of non-compliance brought to its attention.

A system is in place for the user reporting and assessment of incidents of device failures. In the event of evidence emerging that devices placed on the market are not compliant with the requirements of the directive, the MHRA has a range of powers and sanctions available under the Consumer Protection Act to deal with the problem.

The NHS Supply Chain has set in place framework agreements for the supply of surgical instruments for use by the NHS. As part of these assessments, quality and price are taken into account and manufacturers will comply with legislation and regulatory requirements.

Mental Health

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that Public Health England takes account of the findings of his Department's mental health strategy with respect to linkages between mental health, well-being and employment. [65859]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the Health and Social Care Bill receiving Royal Assent, Public Health England will be an integrated public health delivery body that will support the delivery of public health services by providing information and scientific advice to local authorities and the national health service. It will be established on 1 April 2013. We will ensure that Public Health England will support the mental health strategy objectives by including improving mental health and well-being within its overarching functions.

Mental Health Strategy

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* speech and language therapists and *(b)* allied health professionals are to be represented on the ministerial advisory group for his Department's mental health strategy. [65858]

Paul Burstow: Allied health professions have representation on the ministerial advisory group for the mental health strategy through the Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF). The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists is a member of the AHPF.

Health and Social Care

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there will be a person appointed to the NHS Commissioning Board who has a primary duty to promote integration across health and social care. [65807]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill published on 19 January 2011 sets out details about the membership of the NHS Commissioning Board. Sir David Nicholson published a document on 8 July 2011 entitled Developing the NHS Commissioning Board setting out further details about the design and operating model of the NHS Commissioning Board. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

The Board itself will determine its own appointments but will include people with a range of skills and experience covering both health and social care.

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he plans to promote the integration of health and social care budgets. [65808]

Paul Burstow: Flexibilities in the National Health Service 2006 Act already support opportunities for integrated working by facilitating lead commissioning, integrated provision and pooled budgets.

The Government have identified greater integration between health and social care as a key priority and has demonstrated its importance by the development of new and integrated health, social care and public health outcomes frameworks.

Furthermore, in line with the recommendations of the NHS Future Forum, our proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill will ensure, subject to parliamentary approval, that there will be a stronger duty on the NHS Commissioning Board, clinical commissioning groups, the Health and Wellbeing boards and monitor to encourage integrated working at all levels.

Improving integration between health and social care will also be one of themes of the engagement exercise following on from the Government's response to the report of the Commission on the funding of care and support.

NHS: Charities

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill will provide greater opportunities for charitable providers to take on NHS services. [65809]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to giving patients greater choice of any qualified provider and creating a fair playing field, in which the best providers (from whichever sector) flourish. We will make sure that what matters is the quality of care provided, not who owns the organisation providing it. Charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises will have the opportunity to offer services that, as well as achieving health and social care outcomes, can respond to clients' individual needs and provide real social value.

Amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill will outlaw any policy to increase or decrease the market share of any particular sector of provider. As a result of the changes we have proposed, Monitor, the NHS Commissioning Board and the Secretary of State would not be able to exercise their functions for the purpose of increasing the market shares of any sector of provider.

NHS: Telephone Services

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* GP surgeries, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* dental practices in (i) England and (ii) Devon that operate 0844 or 0845 telephone numbers. [63378]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no assessment of the number of general practitioner surgeries, hospitals, or dental practices in England that use 0844 or 0845 numbers for patients seeking appointments.

The Department issued guidance and directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers that charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

Prostate Cancer

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he gave to including indicators for better one and five year survival rates for prostate cancer in the NHS Outcomes Framework. [65229]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Outcomes Framework indicators were selected on the basis of trying to achieve a balanced, high-level set of outcome goals that signal improving quality across the breadth of services that the national health service provides. This was conducted through a full public consultation with stakeholders, and suggestions received were considered as part of this process.

We considered indicators across a range of population groups and conditions, including cancer and its various types, and using a set of criteria assessed their suitability for inclusion in the framework. For this reason, it was not possible to include an indicator on survival from prostate cancer.

In addition, 'Improving Outcomes: a Strategy for Cancer' sets out the Government's broader plans to improve outcomes for patients with all cancers, including those with prostate cancer.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Quality Standard for prostate cancer will be developed; and what relationship the standard will have with the revised National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines on prostate cancer. [65230]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has been commissioned to produce a Quality Standard for prostate cancer during the period 2011-12. NICE provides progress updates on its Quality Standard programme on its website:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

NICE is undertaking a review to decide whether the prostate cancer clinical guideline should be updated and will make appropriate links with the development of the Quality Standard should they decide to do so.

Tuberculosis

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps is he taking to stop the spread of tuberculosis; and what assessment he has made of the contribution of border controls to reduce the spread of the disease. [65149]

Anne Milton: The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have published guidance to support the national health service in commissioning and providing effective services to prevent, diagnose and treat tuberculosis (TB).

In addition, the Department is funding TB Alert to raise awareness among groups at risk of TB and among primary care workers.

We expect NHS organisations and their partners to ensure early detection, treatment completion and co-ordinated action to prevent and control TB.

The UK Border Agency is currently reviewing the existing TB screening arrangements for migrants with support from the Department and the Health Protection Agency.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 July 2011

SCOTLAND

Andy Coulson

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson since 21 January 2011; [66067]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011. [66068]

Michael Moore: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Ministerial Meetings

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66060]

Michael Moore: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66570]

Michael Moore: In the last 12 months, one item has been reported as lost. The Scotland Office incurred a cost of £125 to replace this item.

Devolution

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on a referendum on independence in Scotland. [66145]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister on a range of policy matters.

Lloyd Banking Group: Redundancy

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of Lloyds Banking Group on planned redundancies in Scotland. [66144]

Michael Moore: I met with representatives of Lloyds Banking Group on 4 and 7 July 2011.

Olympic Games 2012

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the benefits to the economy of Scotland of the London 2012 Olympics. [66087]

David Mundell: Scotland stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the Games, through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

As of June 2011, 25 Scottish businesses directly involved in the construction programme have supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority, to the value of almost £24.5 million. This figure does not include the value of contracts further down the supply chain.

Trade Groups

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) who will be members of the Scottish Trade Group announced on 8 July 2011; and what criteria will be set for membership; [66161]

(2) what powers will be provided to the Scottish Trade Group announced on 8 July 2011; and what funding the Government plans to provide to the group. [66162]

Michael Moore: Overseas trade and investment is vital to the economic recovery and it is essential that Scotland plays its part. On 8 July 2011, I established the Scottish Trade Group to examine ways in which the UK Government can do more to help Scottish companies do business overseas.

This is a non-statutory group which will provide advice to me in my capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland. Its purpose is to serve as a direct channel for companies and others in Scotland to share views with the UK Government on their trade and investment priorities.

We are working in partnership with the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI), who will provide secretariat support and hosting facilities. The Group will draw on the expertise of UK Trade and Investment, Scottish Development International and SCDI who are working hard to help Scottish companies do more trade across the globe. The Group will include representatives from a range of industry sectors from across Scotland, drawing on SCDI's broad membership.

DEFENCE

Cybercrime

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the threat faced by the UK from cyber attack; and what his policy is on how to respond to that threat. [64842]

Dr Fox: The Government take cyber security very seriously and has recently announced additional funding of £650 million to protect the United Kingdom and to respond effectively to threats from cyberspace.

The national cyber security programme went live in April 2011 and is managed by the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance (OCSIA). The OCSIA supports the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), and the National Security Council in determining priorities in relation to securing cyberspace. The unit provides strategic direction and coordinates action relating to enhancing cyber security and information assurance in the UK.

Within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) there are technical, organisational, procedural, and physical measures in place to protect against and mitigate the impact of cyber attacks. We do not comment on the specific detail of cyber security incidents or threat assessments.

The MOD is leading on work to develop a cyber security and information risk management regime under the auspices of the pan-Government Information Communications Technology (ICT) strategy to apply to all major ICT projects and common infrastructure and services

The MOD reviews the adequacy of its overall protection on an annual basis to inform its planning round process.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for delivery of each programme funded through his Department's allocation to cyber security. [64907]

Dr Fox: The Defence Cyber Security Programme, which is responsible for delivering the Defence element of the National Cyber Security Programme in the Ministry of Defence, will deliver its objectives by 2015.

Cybercrime: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* non-military serving personnel are assigned to cyber security tasks; and what the rank or position is of each such person. [64908]

Dr Fox: Cyber security is the responsibility of all personnel within the Ministry of Defence, and we are taking action to mainstream it into the way we conduct operations and business.

In doing so, we draw on a wide range of specialist personnel. Details of their numbers, ranks or positions, are being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account when deciding to relocate the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. [65049]

Peter Luff: In 2009, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) completed a programme of site rationalisation which reduced its footprint from 17 to three core sites: Porton Down, Fort Halstead and Portsdown West. I have interpreted this question to refer to the subsequent decision which I announced on 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 87-88WS, to further rationalise DSTL's footprint and relocate staff from Fort Halstead to Porton Down and Portsdown West. The following factors informed that decision:

Capability

The majority of the capabilities based at Fort Halstead will benefit from relocation because of potential synergies of skills and facilities with capabilities already based at the other DSTL sites. No capabilities will be disadvantaged by such a move.

Flexibility

Focusing on a smaller number of sites will increase DSTL's ability to flex resources between capabilities in response to changing customer demand and priorities—including any potential future draw-down.

Career development

Staff will have greater opportunity to develop their careers by moving within DSTL without needing to move home.

Smith review

Nearly 800 civil service posts will be relocated out of the south-east of England.

Sustainability

Much of the building stock and infrastructure at Fort Halstead is old and not carbon efficient. The move will enable DSTL to significantly improve its performance against its sustainability targets.

Finance

DSTL will save about £1 million of operating costs per month.

Departmental Pay

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what salary each Minister in his Department received in 2010-11. [64568]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* On 13 May 2010 this Government introduced a 5% reduction in ministerial salaries compared to Ministers in the last Government.

Salaries paid to Ministers in the Ministry of Defence for financial year 2010-11 are as follows:

	Period:		
Ministers	*From*	*To*	*Salary to 31 March 2011 (£)*
Dr Liam Fox MP	12 May 2010	31 March 2011	61,056.18
Nick Harvey MP	13 May 2010	31 March 2011	29,187.29

Ministers	Period: From	To	Salary to 31 March 2011 (£)
Gerald Howarth MP	14 May 2010	31 March 2011	20,894.13
Andrew Robathan MP	14 May 2010	31 March 2011	20,894.13
Peter Luff MP	26 May 2010	31 March 2011	20,129.71
Lord Astor of Hever	26 May 2010	31 March 2011	0

Disclosure of Information

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the inquiry established to determine responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010 has cost to date. [65514]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 July 2011]*: There has been no net additional cost, as it is being undertaken by staff as part of their official duties that are already resourced.

Electronic Data Systems

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to EDS between 1997 and 2010; and how much his Department paid to EDS in compensation for changes to the Defence Information Infrastructure project in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [63470]

Peter Luff: Payments made by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to EDS Defence Limited are shown in the table.

No compensation payments were made to EDS Defence Limited for changes to the Defence Information Infrastructure project in 2006 and 2007. The necessary project enhancements were effected through the MOD's programme change procedures.

Financial year	Payments (£ million)
1997-98	n/a
1998-99	141
1999-2000	116
2000-01	118
2001-02	144
2002-03	179
2003-04	181
2004-05	201
2005-06	336
2006-07	570
2007-08	634
2008-09	775
2009-10	818

n/a = Not available.

Figures are at current prices and exclude VAT.

The payments reported have been extracted from the MOD's central contracts database on which is recorded the majority (about 95%) of all MOD payments. Any payments not processed centrally are not included and may have been made on behalf of other Government Departments, by the MOD's Trading Funds and Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary), locally by the Department, through third parties such as prime contractors or other Government Departments and in relation to collaborative projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas Governments;

From 2004-05, the individual subsidiaries and joint ventures relating to EDS Defence Limited have been reproduced from the corporate structures published in Table 1.17a of UK Defence Statistics. We have used the Hewlett Packard corporate structure for 2008-09 onwards following their takeover of EDS. Where a contract is novated during the year, annual payments are recorded against the company taking ownership of the contract.

Figures before 2004-05 may not reflect the full holding company structure for EDS Defence Limited owing to data limitations.

Royal Marines

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Royal Marines are configured to operate at brigade level following implementation of the proposals in the strategic defence and security review. [65854]

Nick Harvey: By implementing the proposals set out in the strategic defence and security review, the Royal Marines will be configured to deliver one Lead Commando Group of up to 1,800 personnel.

Military Decoration

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Polar Medals have been awarded since 1997. [65889]

Mr Robathan: 73 Polar Medals and seven Clasps have been awarded since 1997.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are applied to determine the award of the Polar Medal. [66014]

Mr Robathan: The criteria are clearly outlined in the Royal Warrant of 1998 which was published in the *London Gazette* No. 55252 dated 14 September 1998. All nominations are considered in accordance with the Royal Warrant.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the Polar Medal; and if he will make a statement. [66015]

Mr Robathan: The policy is clearly outlined in the Royal Warrant of 1998 which was published in the *London Gazette* No. 55252 dated 14 September 1998.

Her Majesty the Queen is the final arbitrator of the recommendations received from the Polar Medal Assessment Committee.

Military Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours the Sentinel R1 aircraft undertook in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Libya in the latest period for which data are available. [65856]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Military Police

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service police are assigned to each location in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF, *(c)* Navy and *(d)* the Service Police Crime Bureau; [64911]

(2) how many *(a)* military personnel of each rank and *(b)* non-military personnel of each grade serve in the (i) Royal Military Police, (ii) Royal Air Force Police, (iii) Royal Navy Police and (iv) Service Police Crime Bureau. [65071]

Mr Robathan: I will write to the hon. Member.

TRANSPORT

Business: Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63556]

Norman Baker: The percentage of invoices paid within five days by the Department for the 12 months June 2010 to May 2011 is 90.66%. It is not possible to distinguish those which relate to small and medium-sized businesses.

This represents 181,653 invoices paid within five days for the 12-month period out of 200,374 invoices received.

The Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58640]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport holds no contracts with Crown Relocations.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to promote the Cycle to Work Scheme in *(a)* Lincoln constituency, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* the UK. [66148]

Norman Baker: The Department has traditionally promoted both the Cycle to Work Scheme and the Cycle to Work Guarantee to employers, employees and other Government Departments across the country through a number of Departmental-led promotions and projects. The Department also funds the National Business Travel Network (NBTN). NBTN launched a DFT part funded 'ways2work' tool kit in November 2010 to help people and businesses work more efficiently. The tool kit includes a section on encouraging cycling to work.

Most recently the Cycle to Work Scheme has been promoted through guidance to the members of the Physical Activity Network which is part of the Department of Health-led Public Health Responsibility Deal. I have also provided a foreword in support of the Cycle to Work-Alliance's Behavioural Impact Analysis.

Finally, the results of bids for Tranche 1 of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund were released on 5 July 2011, many of which included elements relating to cycling to work.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any external consultants have been engaged as part of the planned introduction of free-flow charging on the Dartford Crossing. [65037]

Mike Penning: External consultants have been engaged by the Highways Agency to support the development of the options and business case for the introduction of free-flow charging at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61679]

Norman Baker: While the Department for Transport does not require contractors to comply with specific 'behavioural standards', where relevant, the standard terms of the Department's contracts include requirements in respect of discrimination, health and safety, the environment, and the protection of employment in the event of a transfer of an undertaking (TUPE).

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 2 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60574]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport made two statutory instruments (not counting temporary and local ones) that came into force during the period between 2 March and 31 May 2011 and contained revocations. They are listed in the following table. Neither was expected to result in any saving to those affected as the changes to the law were technical.

Title	*No.*	*In force*
The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Trading Fund (Revocation) Order 2011	SI 2011/630	1 April 2011
The Air Navigation (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	SI 2011/650	4 March 2011

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64418]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is my general policy to accede to all requests for meetings requested by hon. Members, irrespective of party allegiance, unless there are exceptional reasons not to do so.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking with electric vehicle manufacturers to develop a standard electrical connection. [63475]

Norman Baker: This is a matter on which industry leads. Key players, as represented by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' Electric Vehicle Group, the Plugged-In Places and the Institution of Engineering and Technology's Electric Vehicle Group, favour moving to a dedicated plug-in vehicle recharging connector (the IEC62196-2 Type 2) to allow faster recharging rates (up to 32A) than are possible with a three-pin plug. Given this clear direction of travel from industry, the Plugged-In Places will start to install public infrastructure with Type 2 connectors. We will continue to monitor the emergence of standards with industry and internationally.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what analysis his Department has conducted of the merits of *(a)* charging points and *(b)* domestic charging of batteries for electric-powered vehicles. [64385]

Norman Baker: As set out in the Department for Transport's plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy "Making the Connection", published on 30 June 2011, we want the majority of recharging of plug-in vehicles to take place at home, at night, in a period of off-peak demand for electricity. This will be supported by recharging at workplaces and public infrastructure targeted at those places where they are most likely to be used.

This approach is supported by the findings of the Technology Strategy Board's Ultra Low Carbon Vehicle Demonstrator programme, one of the largest trials of plug-in vehicles in the world, the Energy Technology Institute's Plug-In Vehicle Economics and Infrastructure programme, Element Energy's work for the Committee on Climate Change and WWFs recent report "Electric Avenues". These show that recharging at home, at night, is how drivers prefer to recharge. This type of recharging also maximises the environmental benefits of plug-in vehicles by using low carbon night-time generation and is economically preferable, as it allows consumers to take advantage of cheaper off-peak tariffs.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of his policy on charging points on the take-up of subsidies for the purchase of electric-powered vehicles in each of the next four financial years. [64389]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy "Making the Connection" published on 30 June 2011, sets out the Government's strategy for promoting the installation of recharging infrastructure to support the growth in the plug-in vehicle market that we expect to see up to 2020. As well as this Strategy, the Government are also supporting the growth of the plug-in vehicle market through the Plug-In Car Grant providing a 25% discount (up to a maximum of £5,000) on eligible vehicles. These policies support each other with the aim of maintaining the UK at the global forefront of the plug-in vehicle market.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely take-up of subsidies for the purchase of electric-powered vehicles and *(b)* number of such vehicles which will be subject to the subsidy in (i) Glasgow, (ii) Scotland and (iii) the UK in each of the next four financial years. [64467]

Norman Baker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Although the market for these new generation vehicles is growing, it is still at a very early stage. There is a provision of £300 million out to 2015 for consumer incentives. The Government are committed to keeping the scheme under regular review to ensure value for money and to keep in step with market developments.

Manufacturers provide quarterly forecasts of UK supply and sales of eligible vehicles to inform financial planning. However this information and estimates derived from these data are commercially sensitive and cannot be shared.

(b) 10 vehicles are currently eligible for the Plug-in Car Grant with five currently available for purchase anywhere in the UK. When required by ultra-low emission vehicle manufacturers, OLEV will run assessment panels to determine if additional vehicles will be eligible for the Plug-in Car Grant.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department plans to provide for charging points for electric-powered vehicles in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in the next four financial years. [64489]

Norman Baker: The Government have made £30 million available through the Plugged-In Places programme to match fund pilot projects in eight areas across the UK, as part of our Carbon Plan commitment to install 8,500 chargepoints. Transport Scotland was awarded £1.2 million on 14 December 2010 as part of this programme to install 375 chargepoints in Central Scotland, including Glasgow.

In addition on 30 June 2011, the Government published "Making the Connection: the plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy", which set out a range of support that the Government are providing to promote the installation of recharging infrastructure in the UK including:

Removing barriers to the market, such as the requirement for planning permission for public recharging infrastructure and working to enable charegepoint operators to charge the market rate for electricity from public chargepoints;

Producing a conducive environment for private investment by encouraging infrastructure through planning policies, supporting the move to standardisation and, if raising finance proves a barrier, the potential for targeted financial solutions through the Green Investment Bank; and

Helping the consumer by enabling all public infrastructure to be interoperable and improving the provision of information about public chargepoints.

Rail Value for Money Review

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the recommendations of the McNulty review on the number of *(a)* ticket offices and *(b)* on-board rail staff working (i) at stations and (ii) on trains between Brighton and London. [65719]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to agree proposals for the reform of the industry.

Railways: Halton

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the feasibility of opening the Halton Curve for scheduled passenger services. [66281]

Mrs Villiers: Merseytravel has carried out a study to establish whether there is a business case for a new local passenger service between Chester/North Wales and Liverpool using an upgraded Halton Curve. In the light of this, it is for Merseytravel rather than the Department for Transport to determine whether this scheme should be a priority for funding.

Rescue Services: Expenditure

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to run the coastguard station at *(a)* Bangor, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* Aberdeen in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [65165]

Mike Penning: The costs for the three Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) for the financial year 2010-11 are as follows:

MRCC	*Costs (£ million)*
(a) Belfast (Bangor)	0.70
(b) Liverpool	0.80
(c) Aberdeen	1.40

Costs include:

Direct costs of Coastguard MRCCs, including operating costs comprising: payroll, running costs and accommodation costs.

Some running and accommodation costs include those relating to other Maritime and Coastguard Agency co-located offices and non-separable district office costs.

Costs exclude:

Running and maintenance of National Information Communication Technology infrastructure such as radio communications networks, masts and towers, as such costs are not held on a site by site basis.

Similarly, capital projects such as IT and equipment refresh are not held on a site by site basis.

Sector managers' pay (those responsible for managing the volunteer coastguard rescue officers (CROs)) and the cost of the volunteer CROs.

Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60204]

Norman Baker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) (i to iii) DFT(C) would incur disproportionate costs in trying to obtain this information.

(b) (i) VOSA awarded two contracts—3.63 % of their totals contracts awarded to small and medium enterprises (SME) in Scotland. DSA, HA and MCA would incur disproportionate costs in trying to obtain this information. DVLA, GCDA and VCA have awarded no contracts to SME in Scotland.

(b) (ii) VOSA awarded 0% of total contracts to SME in South Lanarkshire.

(b) (iii) VOSA awarded 0% of total contracts to SME in Rutherglen and West Hamilton.

Shipping: EU Action

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential change in costs of inspection of foreign registered vessels calling at British ports arising from the implementation of the European Port State Control Directive. [64099]

Mike Penning: An estimate of the potential cost of inspection of foreign registered ships calling at UK ports arising from the implementation of the European Port State Control Directive is set out in a consultation stage impact assessment. The present value of the monetised cost has been estimated at around £3.2 million over ten years.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Allowances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 959W, on Members: allowances, whether the

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority intends to make an assessment of the effects on public confidence in Parliament of the bi-monthly frequency of its publication of claims. [64900]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority intends to make an assessment of the effects on public confidence in Parliament of the bi-monthly frequency of its publication of claims.

Transparency is central to our efforts to restore public confidence in the manner in which MPs are reimbursed for expenses and business costs. The lack of transparency under the former regime governing MPs' expenses was one of the factors that brought it into disrepute.

A recent survey commissioned by the National Audit Office found that public confidence is increasing: 55% of the general public thought that the situation with respect of MPs' expenses had improved in the last year.

IPSA's view is that our approach to publication needs to strike a balance between cost effectiveness on one hand and public confidence on the other. The evolution is clear—from the declining number of hits with every publication—that everybody is becoming used to bi-monthly publication as a regular feature of our transparency regime. We see no reasons to undertake further research on this issue.

Telephone Recording

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's policy of retaining recordings of telephone calls for more than six years is not stated on its website. [64455]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's policy of retaining recordings of telephone calls for more than six years is not stated on its website

It is currently IPSA's policy to retain all digital and electronic records, which include telephone calls, for six years. This policy is currently being reviewed and a revised policy will be published before the end of the year.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what business reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority considers it may be necessary to retain recordings of telephone conversations after a period of six years has elapsed. [64456]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's policy of retaining recordings of telephone calls for more than six years is not stated on its website.

We do not envisage that there are business reasons to retain recording of telephone conversations beyond the retention period.

This policy is currently being reviewed and a revised policy will be published before the end of the year.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice given to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority by the Information Commissioner on the retention of recordings of telephone conversations. [64457]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, if I will place in the Library a copy of the advice given to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority by the Information Commissioner on the retention of recordings of telephone conversations.

We have neither sought nor received such advice. When IPSA first started operations it drew up a draft records management policy which contained a retention policy of six years for electronic and digital files, which include telephone calls.

IPSA is currently reviewing this policy and envisages amending the retention period for a range of records, including recordings of telephone conversations. A revised policy will be published before the end of the year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Meetings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations, including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since May 2010; [66070]

(2) what (a) meetings and (b) other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66072]

Sir George Young: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

HEALTH

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations, including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66064]

Mr Simon Burns: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed. I refer the right hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Carers

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures regulate the *(a)* quality and *(b)* safety of care providers in receipt of personal budget payments; [65664]

(2) what safeguards his Department has put in place in respect of the expenditure of personal budgets on unregistered carers. [65665]

Paul Burstow: Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, all providers of regulated activities as defined in regulations made under the Act, regardless of how the activity is funded, must be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and meet and continue to meet 16 essential requirements of safety and quality. Personal care provided by a family member or friend, with no commercial consideration, does not require registration with the CQC.

Where the care is arranged and directed by the person receiving the care, without the involvement of an agency, the provider is not required to register with the CQC. This allows the individual to use the personal budget flexibly and choose whatever arrangements suit them best. If they wish to use a provider that is registered with the CQC, with the assurances that registration provides, then they are free to do so.

Where an individual purchasing support employs someone from an agency, the agency has the responsibility of supplying staff who have had a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check. However, if the individual chooses to employ someone directly they can also request that a CRB check is carried out before they employ that person as a personal assistant.

Adults with capacity to consent to direct payments or a suitable person are not obliged to obtain CRB checks for someone they employ.

In both cases, the council should still inform the direct payment recipient that, while a CRB check is not mandatory, they may still wish to consider obtaining one as part of their overall risk management plan. However, it is ultimately a matter for the individual.

In the case of a suitable person managing a direct payment on behalf of someone lacking capacity who is not a close relative, regulations do require a CRB check for anyone providing care via a direct payment.

Dementia: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London Borough of Bexley who have been diagnosed with dementia in the latest period for which figures are available. [65566]

Paul Burstow: Data on new diagnoses of dementia are not collected. However the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) collects each year the number of patients on the dementia register in general practices.

The figure for the latest year (2009-10) for Bexley Care Trust (the primary care trust area corresponding to the London borough of Bexley) is 908 patients.

Note:

Coverage of QOF. Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.

Dental Health: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the level of tooth decay amongst children aged 12 and under in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Teignbridge in the latest year for which figures are available. [64517]

Mr Simon Burns: The 'NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme for England Oral Health Survey of 12 year old Children 2008/2009' shows that the average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) among 12-year-old children in Teignbridge was 1.06 compared to a DMFT of 0.77 for Devon and 0.74 for England as a whole. In order to address persistent inequalities in oral health the Department is developing a new dental contract based on capitation, registration and quality.

The full results of the survey are available at:

www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/survey-results-12.aspx

The two tables from the survey that include the above data have been placed in the Library.

Health Authorities: Postgraduate Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what duties strategic health authorities have in respect of postgraduate education; and which organisations will take on such duties following the abolition of the authorities. [66141]

Anne Milton: Strategic health authorities are responsible for funding, planning and quality assuring the provision of postgraduate education and training, including medical and dental post-graduate training programmes and post-graduate programmes for other healthcare professionals. In line with the recommendations of the Future Forum on education and training, strategic health authorities are working with stakeholders and their local healthcare providers to develop employer-led partnerships to plan and develop their local work force, including planning for relevant clinical post-graduate programmes, when the strategic health authorities close in April 2013.

A new national body, Health Education England, is to be established to provide national leadership for education and training and hold to account the new local arrangements for providing the best quality education and training. The transition will be phased so that provider-led partnerships can take on responsibilities as they are able to demonstrate their capacity and capability against a rigorous authorisation process. We will set out further details in the autumn.

Health Services

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether commissioning groups will decide when to *(a)* use and *(b)* prevent a competitive market when delivering certain health services; and if he will make a statement. [66296]

Mr Simon Burns: Our intention is that the application of choice and competition should be driven by patients' needs and expectations, and may vary across different service areas.

As now, it would be for commissioners to take decisions on when and how to use choice and competition in improving services in line with guidance from the NHS Commissioning Board and the mandate and regulations set by the Secretary of State.

The Government's focus is on increasing patient choice as the key driver of higher-quality, more personalised care. However, competitive tendering would remain an option where commissioners decide this is the best way to improve services for patients.

Health Services: Freedom of Information

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that any private companies providing health care services for NHS patients will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [66235]

Mr Simon Burns: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) applies to public authorities and companies wholly owned by public authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Where national health service commissioners contract with private providers for the provision of health care services, the NHS standard contract would require that the provider must acknowledge that the commissioners are subject to the requirements of FOIA and shall assist and co-operate with each commissioner to enable the commissioner to comply with its disclosure obligations under the FOIA.

Health Inequalities

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on implementation of the recommendations of the Marmot review of health inequalities in England. [66172]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England" (Cm 7985) was the Government's response to the Marmot review on health inequalities in England. It adopts a 'life course approach' for tackling health inequalities by addressing the social determinants of health, in line with the review's recommendations. This cross-Government approach to tackling health inequalities and the wider social determinants of health was developed with ministerial colleagues through the Home Affairs' Sub-Committee on Public Health. This work continues through the Sub-Committee, and as part of wider discussions in other ministerial meetings.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time for *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient treatments was for patients in York in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65610]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 1997 the national health service has changed the way it measures waiting times, therefore more than one set of data are provided to answer the question.

Information on median wait times for in-patient (elective care admissions) at York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (FT) between June 1997 and March 2010 is shown in the following table:

Month ending	*Median wait (in weeks)*
June 1997	12.2
June 1998	16.8
May 1999	12.9
May 2000	16.2
May 2001	16.4
May 2002	15.9
May 2003	14.8
May 2004	11.5
May 2005	9.9
May 2006	8.8
May 2007	6.4
May 2008	4.9
May 2009	4.7
March 2010	3.5

Notes:

1. No figures are available for May 1997, as waiting times data was only collected quarterly in 1997. Therefore, figures for June 1997 have been provided.
2. Figures on in-patient and out-patient waiting times were only published monthly from June 1998. Therefore, figures for June 1998 have been provided.
3. Data on in-patient waiting lists not collected after March 2010. Therefore, figures for March 2010 have been provided.
4. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:

Department of Health KH07, Monthly monitoring return.

Information on the median referral to treatment (RTT) waiting time (weeks) for patients completing a pathway for York Teaching Hospitals NHS FT between 2008 and 2011 is shown in the following table.

Admitted (adjusted) pathways completed during month:

Period	*Median waiting time (in weeks)*
May 2008	10.1
May 2009	10.2
May 2010	8.2
April 2011	6.5

Notes:

1. The figures show the median time for patients completing a pathway in the period stated.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
3. May 2011 figures will be published on 14 July 2011.
4. These figures, reflect the total time waited from referral to treatment as compared to in-patient stage of treatment as shown in the previous table.

Source:

Department of Health Referral to Treatment return

Information on median waiting time (weeks) for out-patients seen during the quarter May to July between 1997 and 2007 for York Teaching Hospitals NHS FT is shown in the following table.

Out-patients seen during the quarter

Quarter ending	*Median wait (in weeks)*
June 1997	6.5
June 1998	6.6
June 1999	8.9
June 2000	8.5
June 2001	5.7
June 2002	5.7
June 2003	5.7
June 2004	6.4
June 2005	5.9
June 2006	4.6
June 2007	3.8

Notes:
1. Data on out-patient times waited are only available quarterly, so figures for quarter ending June have been provided.
2. The figures show the median time waited for patients having a first consultant led out-patient appointment in the period stated.
3. Out-patient waiting times are measured from general practitioner referral to first out-patient appointment.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
5. Figures last published September 2007.

Source:
Department of Health return QM08

Information on median RTT waiting time (weeks) for non-admitted patients completing a pathway for York Teaching Hospitals NHS FT between 2008 and 2011 is shown in the following table.

Non-admitted pathways completed during month:

Period	*Median waiting time (in weeks)*
May 2008	5.2
May 2009	4.3
May 2010	3.9
April 2011	3.1

Notes:
1. The figures show the median time for patients completing a pathway in the period stated.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
3. May 2011 figures will be published on 14 July 2011,
4. These figures reflect the total time waited from referral to treatment as compared to the out-patient stages of treatment waiting time as shown in the previous table.

Source:
Department of Health Referral to Treatment return

The most recent RTT data will be published on the Department's website on 14 July 2011 at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/ReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in York waited for more than six months for NHS treatment in each year since 1997. [65611]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of patients waiting over six months for inpatient admission at York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (FT) from March 1997 to March 2010 is shown in the following table:

Month ending	*Number of patients still waiting over six months at month end*
March:	
1997	935
1998	2,744
1999	1,641
2000	1,752
2001	1,884
2002	1,900
2003	1,711
2004	826
2005	532
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0

Notes:
1. Since 2006, figures reflect number of patients waiting over 26 weeks.
2. Data on inpatient waiting lists not collected after March 2010.

Source:
Department of Health KH07, monthly monitoring return.

In addition, since 2007, waiting times on a referral to treatment (RTT) basis have been published. Information on the number of patients who waited over 26 weeks on an admitted RTT pathway at York Teaching Hospitals NHS FT between 2008 and 2011 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of admitted patients who waited 26 weeks or more from RTT*
2008-09	498
2009-10	622
2010-11	410

Note:
Data shown for whole financial year.

Source:
Department of Health RTT return.

Influenza: Vaccination

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust area received influenza injections in each year since 2005. [65615]

Anne Milton: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Influenza season	*Number of people aged 65 or over vaccinated against seasonal influenza*
2006-07	110,892
2007-08	111,177
2008-09	113,431
2009-10	113,478
2010-11	114,426

It is not possible to provide data for 2005 as North Yorkshire and York primary care trust was not formed until 1 October 2006.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the original estimate, in current prices, was of the cost to the public purse of the electronic patient record system commissioned in 2002; and what the final cost, in current prices, was at the time of completion. [65632]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Audit Office (NAO) Report (2008) stated that the estimated total cost of the national programme for information technology would be £12.7 billion. The latest NAO report (2011) stated that the Department plans to reduce the overall cost of the programme to £11.4 billion and that, as of 31 March 2011, the Department and the national health service (in England) have spent £6.4 billion on the programme. These costs are based on a 2004-05 price base. Certain elements of the programme have not yet been delivered.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 27 May 2011 with regard to Ms M. Robinson. [65669]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department replied to the right hon. Member's letter of 27 May 2011 on behalf of Ms Robinson on 29 June 2011.

Mental Health

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of mental health problems arising from bereavement in the latest period for which figures are available. [66090]

Paul Burstow: There is currently no mechanism for recording whether or not bereavement has been a causal factor contributing to someone's need to be treated for mental health problems.

NHS: Drugs

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 896W, on drugs: finance, how much the NHS spent on medicines including primary and secondary care in each year between 2005-06 and 2009-10 as a proportion of total NHS expenditure recorded in the National Programme Budgeting Database. [65663]

Mr Simon Burns: The requested information is detailed in the following table.

NHS medicines expenditure and as a proportion of national programme budget expenditure

£ million

	Primary care drugs expenditure	*Secondary care drugs expenditure*	*Total drugs expenditure*	*Programme budgeting expenditure*	*Drugs as a proportion of programme budget expenditure (%)*
2005-06	7,235	2,764	9,999	80,185	12.5
2006-07	7,593	2,969	10,562	84,193	12.5
2007-08	7,663	3,274	10,937	93,183	11.7
2008-09	7,749	3,647	11,397	96,815	11.8
2009-10	7,946	3,974	11,920	103,975	11.5

Sources:

Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business services Authority, England, Department of Health Finance Division, Foundation Trust year-end accounts. Department of Health resource accounts, primary care trust and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns.

NHS: Training

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse will be of the NHS Bursary Scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [66150]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated expenditure for the NHS Bursary Scheme in 2011-12 is £525 million. The costs are dependent on the number of students and the package of support available to each student. An estimate of the costs for 2012-13 will be made once further information is available about the number of student places that will be filled in 2012-13.

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resource allocation was made to North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) in the year it was created and each subsequent year to 2011-12; and what allocation is planned for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14 in (i) cash terms, (ii) cash terms deflated by the retail prices index, (iii) cash terms deflated by inflation in health care costs and (iv) cash terms deflated by inflation in health care costs and adjusted for demographic changes in the (A) number of people living and (B) age structure of the population which the PCT serves. [65619]

Mr Simon Burns: North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) was established on 1 October 2006 as a result of a merger between Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT; Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT; Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT; and Selby and York PCT. As recurrent revenue allocations had already been made to the predecessor PCTs for 2006-07 and 2007-08, the first allocation made directly to North Yorkshire and York PCT was for 2008-09.

The following tables set out the allocations to predecessor PCTs from 2003-04 to 2007-08, and to North Yorkshire and York PCT from 2008-09 to 2011-12.

Recurrent revenue allocations to PCTs for 2012-13 will be announced later this year. Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, the National Health Service Commissioning Board would take over responsibility for the allocation of resources from the Department of Health for 2013-14 onwards. Allocations would be made to clinical commissioning groups. Further detail on allocations and processes will be announced in due course.

Table 1: Recurrent revenue allocations made to the predecessor PCTs 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	2003-04 to 2005-06 allocation round			*2006-07 to 2007-08 allocation round*	
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT	166,668	181,585	197,111	235,518	254,740
Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT	91,187	99,349	107,843	129,360	139,918
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	138,792	152,118	166,123	198,010	216,805
Selby and York PCT	216,207	235,557	255,791	307,131	335,917
Total	612,855	668,610	726,867	870,019	947,379

Table 2: Recurrent revenue allocations made to North Yorkshire and York PCT 2008-09 to 2011-12

£000

	2008-09 allocations	*2009-10 to 2010-11 allocation round*		*2011-12 allocations*
	2008-09 recurrent revenue allocation	*2009-10 recurrent revenue allocation*	*2010-11 recurrent revenue allocation*	*2011-12 recurrent revenue allocation*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	999,125	1,076,587	1,139,019	1,151,558

Notes:

1. Allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were announced for 303 PCTs on 9 February 2005. These became 152 PCTs on 1 October 2006 and involved the merger of the four PCTs in Table 1 that became North Yorkshire and York PCT.

2. Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.

Source:

Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

Nurses: Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average pay of an NHS nurse was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65608]

Mr Simon Burns: The average pay of a qualified national health service nurse in England in the period requested is set out in the following table.

Estimated earnings per full-time equivalent member of staff

£

Financial year	*Cash*	*Real Terms*
1997-98	20,830	29,352
1998-99	21,042	29,038
1999-2000	22,329	30,220
2000-01	23,427	31,295
2001-02	24,733	32,317
2002-03	25,702	32,535
2003-04	26,342	32,430
2004-05	27,697	33,176
2005-06	28,784	33,864
2006-07	29,863	33,992
2007-08	31,150	34,469
2008-09	32,335	34,817
2009-10	33,378	35,364

Notes:

1. These figures are estimated using NHS paybill data relating to entire financial years, with further adjustment to deduct employer pension and national insurance costs, and data on work force numbers from the NHS Census taken each September.

2. Real terms figures are based on 2011-12 prices.

3. Estimates relating specifically to May are unavailable for this period.

4. The latest available paybill data relate to 2009-10.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the starting salary of an NHS nurse was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65609]

Mr Simon Burns: The starting salary of a newly qualified national health service nurse in England since May 1997 is shown in the following table.

Qualified nurse starting salary: May 1997 to May 2011

£

Year	*Starting pay—cash terms*[1,2]	*Starting pay—real terms 2011-12 prices*
1997-98	[3]12,230	17,234
1998-99	[3]12,630	17,429
1999-2000	14,400	19,489
2000-01	14,890	19,891
2001-02	15,445	20,181
2002-03	16,005	20,260
2003-04	16,525	20,344
2004-05[4]	17,060	20,435
2005-06	18,698	21,998
2006-07	19,166	21,816
2007-08	[3]19,454	21,527
2008-09	20,225	21,778
2009-10	20,710	21,943
2010-11	21,176	21,790
2011-12	21,176	21,176

[1] Starting pay for a newly qualified nurse is normally the minimum of the grade applicable to basic grade qualified nurses. The annual uplift date (unless staging applied) is 1 April.

[2] The grades applicable to basic grade qualified nurses in the years set out in the table are as follows:
1988-89 to 2004-05 D Grade
2005-06 to 2010-11 Agenda for Change Band 5
Figures given are for the minimum of these grades in the year in question, as of 1 May. This excludes any staged increases.

[3] Staged increase in the following years:
1997-98—Increased to £12,385 on 1 December 1997
1998-99—Increased to £12,855 on 1 December 1998
2007-08—Increased to £19,683 on 1 November 2007

[4] The rate given is the D Grade rate as of May 2004, pre Agenda for Change. The effective implementation date for Agenda for Change was 1 October 2004. The minimum of Agenda for Change Band 5 from that date was £18,114.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on redundancies at primary care trusts in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England since May 2010; how many previous employees have been rehired elsewhere in the NHS; and how many temporary posts have been created by primary care trusts. [65587]

Mr Simon Burns: Data on the redundancy costs for 2010-11 are not yet available, as work on the accounts and the audit is not yet complete.

The NHS Summarised Accounts are currently expected to be laid before Parliament in early September, and data will therefore be available from that date.

Nationally, an estimated 145 national health service staff were made redundant and subsequently re-employed by NHS organisations on a permanent basis between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. During the same period, an additional estimated 90 staff were made redundant and subsequently re-employed on a fixed-term contract basis.

Figures are not currently available for those staff made redundant and rehired only from primary care trusts, nor those made redundant and rehired in the north-east due to technical problems with the Department's reporting mechanism. I will write to the right hon. Member very shortly with this information and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Andrew Coulson

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister what the job description of Mr Andrew Coulson was during his employment at 10 Downing street. [66093]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 37W.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister what the role was of each official who reported to Mr Andrew Coulson during his employment at 10 Downing street. [66094]

The Prime Minister: Mr Andrew Coulson had no line management responsibility for any officials.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister whether Mr Andrew Coulson had access to any classified information relating to *(a)* security matters in Northern Ireland, *(b)* police policy, *(c)* police operations and *(d)* police appointments; and whether he attended any meetings on these subjects. [66143]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 336W.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's Perpetual Fund

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister how much the Government has donated to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's Perpetual Fund since the fund's inception. [65884]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have each contributed £1 million in 2011-12 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau restoration fund. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will contribute a further £100,000 in 2013. The fund will ensure the consolidation, restoration and long-term maintenance of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps.

Phone Hacking

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Prime Minister how many conversations (1) he has had with *(a)* Mr Andy Coulson and *(b)* Rebekah Brooks on allegations of phone hacking since 11 May 2010; [66086]

(2) when he last met in his official capacity *(a)* Mr James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* Mr Andy Coulson. [66132]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 313-14 and the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent North (Barry Gardiner) on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 321-22.

A list of my official meetings with external organisations is published quarterly and can be found on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/transparency/who-ministers-are-meeting/

JUSTICE

Ministerial Meetings

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66133]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66136]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Community Orders

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a financial limit will be placed on contract bids for the purpose of tendering for unpaid work for offenders in England and Wales. [65954]

Mr Blunt: There will be no financial limit placed upon a returned contract bid, but the authority will provide bidders with a contract threshold price. The authority would expect bids to identify cost savings (efficiencies) against existing operational arrangements and to be affordable within MOJ/NOMS budgetary constraints.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the reasons for probation service confidentiality clauses in respect of the tendering for unpaid work in England and Wales. [65956]

Mr Blunt: All bidders in Community Payback mini-competitions are required to sign the confidentiality undertaking, accepting that they have a fiduciary duty of care to the authority in respect of written and oral information provided during the course of a competition. This is usual practice and necessary to protect the integrity of the competition itself.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who will be responsible for providing evidence to the courts of a breach of unpaid work conditions following the completion of the tendering processes for unpaid work in England and Wales. [65957]

Mr Blunt: Following the Community Payback (unpaid work) competitions, probation trusts will continue to be responsible for the presentation of uncontested breaches in court. In single unpaid work requirement cases in which a Community Payback provider is responsible for offender management, they will be required to submit evidence to support the breach action available to the relevant probation trust.

Courts: Enforcement

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any private sector company responsible for criminal court enforcement will be required to conduct risk assessments on offenders. [66053]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service are developing a strategy for the enforcement of fines and how best to improve this in the future. This could include forming a partnership with a commercial partner. Details of any partnership with a commercial company to deliver enforcement functions for criminal court fines or how a partnership might be run are not yet known.

Data Protection

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he proposes to take to prevent the unlawful trading of confidential personal information. [66226]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The unlawful obtaining or disclosure of personal data is an offence under s.55 of the Data Protection Act. The Ministry of Justice has been exploring ways of making the illegal obtaining and disclosure of personal data less lucrative, for example, through the use of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, under which unlawfully gained assets can be recovered. This was recently used successfully in connection with the Information Commissioner's prosecution of two offenders who had sold customer information relating to mobile phone contracts. I have also asked the Sentencing Council to consider the production of a sentencing guideline on data protection offences, and we are keeping the question of greater penalties for such offences under review.

I expect that these matters may be of relevance to the inquiry to be chaired by Lord Justice Leveson. Draft terms of reference for that inquiry have been placed in the Library of the House.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the penalties provided for in Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998. [66229]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government are keeping the matter of penalties for offences committed under section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 under review.

Departmental Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 972W, on departmental compensation, what steps he is taking to reduce the need for his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies to compensate the public for errors made. [63942]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following steps are being taken to reduce departmental compensation by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies who have made compensation payments.

The amount of claims received, the outcome and the type of error that has been made for each compensation claim is monitored. Feedback and training are given to the staff concerned. Where appropriate, changes to policy, work practices and processes are made to improve service delivery.

Complaints-handling processes have been restructured within the Department to ensure all trends are better captured and that action can be taken quickly to deal with any significant issues that arise. Further work is being done this year to develop this customer intelligence function and to better identify those areas where customer expectations are not being met.

Judicial Review: Costs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent in each cost category on representation and related costs in relation to completed judicial reviews relating to inquests in each year since 2006-07. [66089]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is not a party to judicial review proceedings which name the coroner as the defendant. Costs incurred during these proceedings will be met by the coroner's local authority and the applicant bringing the proceedings.

There are, however, some judicial reviews of inquests into deaths in prison custody where the National Offender Management Service is represented as an interested party. It has not, however, been possible to provide expenditure for these cases as this information could only be obtained by going through all invoices sent by the Treasury Solicitor, who represents Government in such proceedings, which would be at disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of unsuccessful cases supported by legal aid in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [65911]

Mr Djanogly: The information is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Total costs to civil legal aid (£ million)*
2008-09	284.50
2009-10	232.76

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of clinical negligence claimants supported by legal aid were identified as disabled in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and 2009-10. [65913]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is able to provide this information and it is shown in the following table. Figures relate to civil representation only.

	Proportion (percentage)
2007-08	46.3
2008-09	45.6
2009-10	46.0

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many clinical negligence cases supported from public funds were investigated and not pursued beyond the investigation stage in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much was spent in legal aid for such cases in each such year. [65914]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Volume	*Costs (£ million)*
2008-09	2,401	14.3
2009-10	2,016	13.0

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he made of the effects of the reduction in expenditure on legal aid on the ability of the Immigration Advisory Service to carry out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [66236]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission has been working closely with Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) for some time now following an audit which raised concerns around the company's financial management and claims irregularities and as such, the Trustees of the IAS decided that the organisation had to enter into administration on 8 July 2011.

The IAS's current position reflects the company's past financial management and claims irregularities and is not a direct consequence of the proposed legal aid reforms, not least because these reforms have yet to be implemented. It is the current and historic financial management failures, that have resulted in significant liabilities which IAS has found itself unable to meet.

During recent negotiations with the Legal Services Commission, the IAS confirmed that they had plans in place to continue to operate after proposed legal aid reforms were implemented and would be in a position to return a surplus of around £500,000 per annum. As such, this makes it clear that it is the debt owed to the LSC that has placed the IAS into administration, not the as yet unimplemented reforms.

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases his Department has provided legal aid for advice or assistance in relation to an application for a visa to enter the UK *(a)* for the purposes of study and *(b)* under the points based system in each of the last three years; and what the total expenditure was in each respect. [65482]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) did not record data on legal aid in relation to visas at a level which would enable them to say whether they were for the purposes of study prior to May 2009. The LSC does not record data on whether the legal advice was provided for an application in relation to someone entering the UK, or to someone already in the UK.

The LSC provided 1,965 acts of assistance in relation to visa applications for the purposes of study in the calendar year 2010; the associated costs were £893,775,

The LSC is unable to provide information on visa applications relating to the points based system, as it does not record information in this way.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 1 June 2011 with regard to Mr W. Howe. [65670]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: A reply has now been sent to the right hon. Member. I apologise for the delay.

Privacy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ask the Information Commissioner to update his paper entitled, "What price privacy now?", as a matter of urgency. [66228]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I understand that since his 'What price privacy now?' report the Information Commissioner has continued to prosecute offenders and raise public awareness of the unlawful trade in personal information.

The Commissioner is independent of Government, and decisions on producing reports are entirely a matter for him. Under the Data Protection Act 1998, and in addition to his Annual Report, the Information Commissioner may at any time lay reports before Parliament on his functions as he sees fit.

Probation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated cost is to each probation trust in England and Wales of tendering for unpaid work. [65955]

Mr Blunt: It is a matter for probation trusts to decide whether to act as a prime bidder for the provision of Community Payback (unpaid work). No separate funds have been made available to probation trusts to support this activity and NOMS would expect them to absorb any additional costs within their existing budgets.

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what offence each person under the age of 18 held on remand was accused on the latest date for which figures are available. [66098]

Mr Blunt: Information held by the Youth Justice Board records the primary offence group for young people on custodial remand, on their Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS).

The following table shows the 2009-10 average custody population of young people under 18-years-old, and held on remand by the primary offence group they were charged with, including those who breached the conditions of their bail.

Offence group[1]	*2009-10 average*
Violence against the person	161
Sexual offences	32
Burglary	87
Robbery	156
Theft and handling stolen goods	24
Fraud and forgery	2
Criminal damage	15
Drug offences	40
Other indictable offences	27
Indictable motoring offences	n/a
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	n/a
Summary motoring offences	n/a
Total under 18 remand population by offence group[2]	587

n/a = not available[2]

[1] As defined by Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

[2] Some offence descriptions used by the Youth Justice Board SACHS system do not include sufficient detail to permit them to be assigned to a standard offence group used by the Ministry of Justice. The total in this table includes 45 juveniles where this is the case.

WALES

Welfare State: Reform

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the report by Sheffield Hallam university on the effects on Wales of the Government's proposed welfare reforms. [65470]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Employment, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for alcohol-related violence in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each year since 2005. [65932]

James Brokenshire: The requested data on arrests are not collected centrally. Data on arrests are collected by offence category, such as "violence against the person" and "drug offences", and are not available at more specific levels such as "alcohol-related violence". Data on the offence categories described above are published annually in chapter 1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures". Current and previous editions of this are available in the Library of the House.

Asylum: Information and Communications Technology

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was, at current prices, of the Siemens computer system for processing asylum applications. [65629]

Damian Green: The Home Department does not have a contract with Siemens for a computer system to process asylum applications. Accordingly, there has been no cost to the public purse.

Departmental Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total monetary value is of contracts her Department holds with *(a)* Co sponsor, *(b)* Steria and *(c)* Blue Light Solutions. [65941]

Damian Green: The Home Department and its Executive Agencies has no recorded contracts with *(a)* Co Sponsor or *(c)* Blue Light Solutions. The total monetary value of contracts held with *(b)* Steria is £56 million.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from her Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64684]

Damian Green: The number of staff dismissed for under-performance (inefficiency) is shown in table 1. This covers dismissals arising from both poor performance and poor attendance. The numbers relate to the Home Office, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last three financial years.

Table 1: Number of staff dismissed for inefficiency

	Total number dismissed for inefficiency (poor attendance and poor performance)
2010-11	42
2009-10	25
2008-09	[1]14

[1] IPS are unable to provide data for 2008-09 due to changes in HR recording systems and the unavailability of records pre 2009.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what police and criminal justice instruments adopted under the pre-Lisbon treaty third pillar arrangements would be liable to transfer to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in 2014 should the UK opt to accept the transfer at the end of the transitional period granted under Article 10 Of Protocol 36 to the consolidated version of the treaty on European Union. [65845]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* There are between 80 and 90 Acts currently in force that were adopted before 1 December 2009 under the Police and Criminal Judicial Co-operation chapter (Title VI) of the treaty on the European Union. Article 10(4) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions (Protocol 36) to the treaty on the functioning of the European Union applies to these Acts. This list is subject to change, as Acts that are repealed and replaced or amended by new instruments cease to fall within the scope of Protocol 36. In accordance with the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, Parliament will be kept informed of developments.

Officials are currently liaising with the European institutions to establish a definitive list and the Government have committed to providing this list to Parliament as soon as possible.

Forensic Science Service: Closure

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the closure of the Forensic Science Service on policing and justice. [65713]

James Brokenshire: We are working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), as well as the Forensic Science Service (FSS) board and other partners across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to put in place plans to maintain a sustainable operational and research capability within the forensics market both during and after the transition. We are committed to minimising the impact on the CJS and the continued provision of effective forensics is a priority for the Home Office.

ACPO have been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the FSS. Feedback from the police and suppliers suggests that a managed wind-down will allow for an orderly transfer of capacity that minimises the cost to the taxpayer and enables us to manage the risks to the CJS.

Illegal Immigrants

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have overstayed their visa in each of the last six months for which data are available; and of those, how many *(a)* have been identified and deported and *(b)* remain in the UK. [65958]

Damian Green: It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of overstayers in the UK as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK, but it is not yet fully rolled out. e-Borders is currently tracking around 55% of inbound and 60% of outbound passenger movements to and from the UK. This equates to approximately 126 million passengers a year on over 2,800 routes, and includes over 90% of non-EU aviation passengers. The Government are committed to increasing the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks to ensure that a more complete passenger travel history is recorded.

This will enable provision of the information requested to be developed as e-Borders is progressively rolled out.

We are however able to provide the number of identified overstayers and of those how many have been subsequently removed, between January 2011 and June 2011.

Month	*Identified*	*Removed*
January 2011	2,109	1,035
February 2011	2,394	1,147
March 2011	2,767	1,381
April 2011	1,780	643
May 2011	2,022	695
June 2011	2,384	719
Total	13,456	5,620

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

John Hagee

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of whether the admission to the UK of Pastor John Hagee is conducive to the public good; and if she will make a statement; [64735]

(2) what discussions she has had with *(a)* representatives of foreign governments and *(b)* representatives of groups and organisations in the UK about the forthcoming visit of Pastor John Hagee to the UK. [64736]

Damian Green: It is Home Office policy not to comment routinely on individual cases.

Knives: Crime

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences involving the use of a knife were recorded in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in each of the last three years. [65838]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office holds data on knife and sharp instrument offences at police force area level only. Data are therefore provided for the Lancashire police force area.

In 2007-08, Lancashire police recorded 374 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument for a select group of offences. These offences are homicide, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery.

In 2008-09 the offence coverage was expanded to also include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08.

In 2008-09, Lancashire police recorded 849 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. The corresponding figure for 2009-10 was 632 offences.

2010-11 data will be published on 14 July 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 31 May 2011 with regard to Mrs H. Farhat. [65671]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 12 July 2011.

Raed Salah

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with *(a)* representatives of foreign governments and *(b)* groups or organisations in the UK on the (i) admittance to and (ii) presence in the UK of Raed Salah; [65000]

(2) what allegations against Raed Salah she *(a)* considered and *(b)* investigated in determining her policy on her exclusion and deportation from the UK; and which of these allegations she considered to be well-founded; [65086]

(3) for what reasons she made her determination that Raed Salah should be *(a)* excluded and *(b)* deported from the UK on the grounds that his presence was not conducive to the public good. [65001]

Damian Green: The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has considered it important to do so. Mr Salah has himself put details of his case into the public domain.

Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June as a result of numerous statements he had made, details of which were obtained from a variety of sources. Exclusion and deportation decisions are confidential to the individual concerned, and operationally sensitive, and it is not our practice to consult widely in making the decision or to inform others in a way which may breach that confidentiality. Both decisions were based on an assessment of whether Mr Salah had expressed views which fell within the scope of the Government's published unacceptable behaviours policy.

The Secretary of State concluded that Mr Salah had made a number of statements that were considered to be unacceptable behaviour.

Young Offenders

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by juvenile offenders in York in each year since 2005. [65931]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify the age of alleged offenders from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Ministerial Meetings

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66054]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66057]

Chris Grayling: As has been the practice of previous administrations, information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Community Care Grants

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers in the Scottish Executive and *(b)* charities and non-governmental organisations on the replacement of community care grants and crisis loans with local welfare assistance. [66159]

Steve Webb: Ministers have had a number of meetings with Ministers in the Scottish Executive to discuss welfare reform including social fund reform. Since the formation of the current Scottish Government no such meetings have taken place. However my noble Friend the Lord Freud spoke with Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister of Scotland, on 16 June 2011, and it is expected that this call will be followed by further discussions.

I held a roundtable event with a number of non-government organisations in March 2011, and departmental officials are continuing to meet with these organisations.

Departmental officials are also working closely with their Scottish counterparts on their reform plans.

Habitual Residence

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 192-3W, on habitual residence, whether a person entitled to a benefit must be present in the UK to receive it; what benefits are eligible to be paid to families and dependants not in the UK or persons who are working in the UK; and what the value is of such benefits. [64028]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The main purpose of child benefit and the child tax credit is to support families living in the United Kingdom. Consequently, the general rules for both benefits do not provide for them to be paid in respect of children who reside outside this country.

However, both child benefit and the child tax credit are "family benefits" under the European Community (EC) social security co-ordinating regulations (EC Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009, previously EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72), which the United Kingdom has administered since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973. Under these EC regulations, nationals of other member states who are employed or self-employed in the United Kingdom and are paying compulsory national insurance contributions are entitled to claim child benefit and the child tax credit in respect of children resident in other member states. United Kingdom nationals who work and are compulsorily insured in another member state have reciprocal entitlement to family benefits in that other state by virtue of the same EC regulations.

The value of family benefits paid by the United Kingdom under the EC regulations is only available at disproportionate costs. This is because not all such awards in respect of children resident in other member states are made at the full United Kingdom rate of benefit.

Hewlett Packard

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to conduct an assessment of the data security implications of the application by Hewlett Packard to move offshore the application maintenance and support elements of the Adams 2 contract that the company holds with his Department; [65861]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 603W, on Hewlett Packard, whether the number of jobs required by Hewlett Packard (HP) to deliver the application maintenance and support element of the Adams 2 contract from an offshore location will form part of the review of plans to increase the amount of work delivered by HP from non-UK locations; if he will commission from HP an impact assessment of its plans to transfer work on this contract to an offshore location; and if he will make a statement; [65999]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 603W, on Hewlett Packard, whether data security will form part of the review of plans to increase the amount of work delivered by Hewlett Packard from non-UK locations in respect of the application maintenance and support element of the Adams 2 contract; and when he expects the review to be concluded. [66000]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently in discussion with HP regarding future Adams 2 plans. This review has not yet been concluded and specific proposals are not yet complete.

All aspects of security, including access to any data that may be required, will be a part of this review. Proposed offshore activities need to gain formal approval against stringent DWP, CESG—the Information Assurance (IA) arm of GCHQ—and Cabinet Office requirements before being permitted.

The review is expected to conclude towards the end of the year when any specific discussions required with HP will take place.

The exact location and number of jobs needed by HP to deliver the required services and its impact on their staff in the UK is a matter for HP to determine.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 603W, on Hewlett Packard, when he last met representatives of Hewlett Packard to discuss the Adams 2 contract. [65998]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently in discussion with HP regarding future Adams 2 plans.

This review has not yet been concluded and specific proposals are not yet complete. All aspects of security, including access to any data that may be required, will be a part of this review. Proposed offshore activities need to gain formal approval against stringent DWP, CESG—the Information Assurance (IA) arm of GCHQ and Cabinet Office requirements before being permitted.

The review is expected to conclude towards the end of the year when any specific discussions required with HP will take place. I met with HP representatives last week

The exact location and number of jobs needed by HP to deliver the required services and its impact on their staff in the UK is a matter for HP to determine.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the level of pensioner poverty in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66366]

Steve Webb: In recent years, the Department has not published assessments of future trends in pensioner poverty. Currently, macroeconomic uncertainty and the Department's significant programme of welfare and pension reform mean that it is not possible to produce any reliable estimate of future trends in pensioner poverty.

Estimates of pensioner poverty are published in the Households Below Average Incomes series. The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those people with income below 60% of contemporary median household income, after housing costs. This is often referred to as relative poverty.

The latest data available from the Households Below Average Incomes for 2009-10, show that in England, after housing costs, the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty is 16% in rural areas compared to 16% in urban areas.

For Wales, the latest data available from the Households Below Average Incomes for 2007-08 to 2009-10, show that, after housing costs, the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty is 17% in rural areas compared to 17% in urban areas.

In England and Wales, the corresponding figures based on 2009-10 data are 16% in rural areas compared to 16% in urban areas.

In Scotland, the corresponding figures based on 2007-08 to 2009-10 data are 14% in rural areas compared to 13% in urban areas.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

3. Figures have been presented on an after housing costs basis.

4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.

6. Proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

7. Three survey years have been combined for Scotland and Wales because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

8. Due to different definitions of rurality in Scotland compared to England and Wales, and the fact that no information is collected on the Family Resources Survey covering rurality in Northern Ireland, it has not been possible to present figures for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on methods of distribution of local welfare assistance in Scotland. [66160]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State and DWP Ministers have met with Scottish Ministers on a number of occasions to discuss a range of subjects including the introduction of a universal credit through a real time earnings system as per the Universal Credit White Paper and Welfare Reform Bill before parliament.

Spotlight on Kinship Care

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review and respond to the recommendations of the report of Buttle UK and the University of Bristol entitled Spotlight on Kinship Care, published in April 2011. [63447]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

The Spotlight on Kinship Care study by the University of Bristol makes a very helpful contribution to our understanding about the numbers of informal family and friends carers and the circumstances in which they are living.

Statutory guidance requires English local authorities with responsibility for children's services to publish, no later than 30 September 2011, a policy setting out their approach towards supporting the needs of children living with family and friends carers. The information in the Spotlight on Kinship Care report should aid local authorities in doing this and help ensure that the needs of kinship care families are addressed in local service delivery.

State Retirement Pensions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* the City of York local authority area and *(b)* York Central constituency were in receipt of (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit in (A) May 2010 and (B) the latest date for which figures are available; and what the average weekly value of pension credit received was in each case. [65623]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following tables.

Recipients of state pension and pension credit in the York central parliamentary constituency

York parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit (£)*
May 2010	15,480	3,910	50.73
November 2010	15,420	3,840	50.26

Recipients of state pension and pension credit in the city of York local authority area

York local authority	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit (£)*
May 2010	37,710	6,650	£49.80

Recipients of state pension and pension credit in the city of York local authority area

York local authority	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit (£)*
November 2010	37,800	6,540	£49.18

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Winter Fuel Payments: Carmarthenshire

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Carmarthenshire received winter fuel payments in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [66278]

Steve Webb: The information for 2009-10 is available in the document Winter Fuel Payment (Number of Households) 2009-2010 by local authority and gender. This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Information for 2010-11 is not currently available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport in the event that a 4G spectrum licence does not provide for a 99 per cent. population coverage obligation, what measures he plans to take to ensure that those consumers who cannot receive superfast broadband will be offered broadband by an alternate technology. [65511]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to ensuring that the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by stimulating private investment to ensure superfast broadband to 90% of all UK premises and standard broadband to virtually all communities by 2015.

Broadband: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers regarding the roll-out of superfast broadband in Scotland. [65481]

Mr Vaizey: I have had regular discussions with Scottish Government Ministers regarding the roll-out of superfast broadband in Scotland. The Government are supporting the Scottish Government to deliver superfast broadband to 90% of all premises in Scotland and standard broadband to virtually all communities by 2015. I have also had similar communications with Wales and Northern Ireland Ministers.

Broadband: YouView

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the introduction of YouView on demand for high speed broadband. [65644]

Mr Vaizey: No assessment has been made.

Mass Media: Privacy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from the Information Commissioner on breaches of personal privacy by media groups. [66227]

Mr Vaizey: No representations have been received.

Royal Parks

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 888W, on the Royal Parks, what steps the Royal Parks take to support considerate cycling. [65892]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks has issued advice encouraging considerate cycling, including publishing a code of conduct. It has also held a series of free public cycling events across the estate to promote safe cycling. Over the past three years, the agency has improved and increased the amount of cycling routes, and now provides 27 miles of off road cycle routes, and 32 miles of park roads.

Tourism: VAT

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect on the *(a)* tourism, *(b)* heritage and *(c)* sporting industries of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [65714]

John Penrose: I regularly meet with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss a wide range of issues. However, VAT is a matter for Her Majesty's Treasury.

Video Games

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to support the computer games industry. [66026]

Mr Vaizey: The Plan for Growth, published with Budget 2011, outlined the Government's aim to create the right overall business environment to support the growth of UK companies, including video games businesses. The Plan for Growth also announced that industry will be establishing a Creative Industry Council. The Government are supportive of this step.

The Council will look at barriers to growth for the sector, which may include access to finance, skills, export markets, intellectual property, innovation and infrastructure.

In addition, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is also working with a number of other Government Departments to ensure their range of support for business, such as R and D tax credits and Government-backed funds, including the UK Innovation and Investment Fund and Enterprise Capital Funds, is accessible to the games industry.

Specifically, the Government are giving £2.5 million of grant support to the University of Abertay to create a new games prototyping programme, including a UK-wide £2 million fund launched in July 2010. There are also discretionary grants from the Technology Strategy Board for collaborative R and D and feasibility studies. Following the publication of the NextGen review of the skills for the video games and visual effects industries, the Government are currently considering recommendations and DCMS will issue its formal response in the summer.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Bona Vacantia

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Attorney-General if he will consider bringing forward legislation which would allow the distribution of assets received as bona vacantia to *(a)* the location in which the deceased person lived and *(b)* wards in the top 10 per cent. of disadvantaged communities as set out in the Index of Multiple Deprivation; and if he will make a statement. [65731]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Surplus bona vacantia income available to the UK Government are passed to the Consolidated Fund to benefit the general Exchequer. It therefore indirectly benefits numerous organisations and locations. There are no plans to change the current system.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Attorney-General how many invoices received by the Law Officers' Departments have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62493]

The Solicitor-General: The latest available information is outlined in the following tables.

Treasury Solicitor's Department

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	1,813	741	622,435
June 2010	1,895	933	843,949
July 2010	2,222	918	836,246
August 2010	1,550	684	617,271
September 2010	2,061	882	635,506
October 2010	1,807	677	504,821
November 2010	2,011	954	886,067
December 2010	2,053	723	585,109
January 2011	2,195	688	347,769
January 2011	1,948	618	306,108
March 2011	3,049	781	376,779
April 2011	1,477	332	25,527

Attorney-General's Office

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	40	3	6,158
June 2010	47	1	306
July 2010	44	0	—
August 2010	41	3	2,475
September 2010	39	0	—
October 2010	44	0	—
November 2010	35	4	13,960
December 2010	45	1	832
January 2011	50	2	445
January 2011	52	0	—
March 2011	52	2	249
April 2011,	30	0	—

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	100	1	93
June 2010	35	—	—
July 2010	169	4	5,527
August 2010	84	2	155
September 2010	78	2	1,888
October 2010	66	2	2,445

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
November 2010	56	3	1,442
December 2010	145	9	861
January 2011	59	11	3,865
January 2011	129	6	3,542
March 2011	95	4	793
April 2011	78	7	45,785

Crown Prosecution Service

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	20,705	2,937	3,121,313
June 2010	23,435	3,820	3,295,145
July 2010	22,342	3,419	3,432,075
August 2010	22,671	2,617	3,315,611
September 2010	23,561	2,633	2,518,926
October 2010	21,573	3,734	3,374,824
November 2010	23,734	3,927	3,308,077
December 2010	17,454	2,782	1,833,391
January 2011	20,079	3,469	2,847,605
January 2011	24,508	3,632	3,625,296
March 2011	25,889	2,691	2,987,154
April 2011	18,273	1,454	1,165,893

Serious Fraud Office

Month	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Number paid over 30 days*	*Value of invoices paid over 30 days*
May 2010	727	67	294,120
June 2010	953	56	267,084
July 2010	667	41	106,980
August 2010	654	61	212,787
September 2010	560	66	704,126
October 2010	806	38	138,147
November 2010	619	70	367,846
December 2010	521	48	215,659
January 2011	563	39	164,407
January 2011	526	28	40,469
March 2011	909	43	116,820
April 2011	590	33	40,311

Freedom of Information Requests

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Law Officers' Departments received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63587]

The Solicitor-General: The number of requests received by the Law Officers' Departments from members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

These statistics cover the period from implementation to 31 March 2011. Statistics for the period from 1 April 2011 will be published in the quarterly statistics from the Ministry of Justice in due course.

The Ministry of Justice figures do not cover the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. The number of requests received by them since 2006 are recorded in the following table.

	Number of requests
2006-07	13
2007-08	6
2008-09	2
2009-10	10
2010-11	8

None of the Law Officers' Departments collect statistics specifically about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and it is therefore not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or a member of the public.

The Attorney-General's Office (AGO) has however identified some records about requests originating from MPs; but it should be noted that these figures may not represent all requests from MPs as we only record those that are clearly identified in our records as coming from an MP.

AGO-FOI requests from Members of Parliament by party (January 2006 to May 2011)

Party	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Labour	—	—	1	—	9	0
Conservative	—	1	—	—	1	—
Lib Dem	1	4	—	—	—	—

AGO-FOI requests from Members of Parliament by party (January 2006 to May 2011)

Party	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Total	1	5	1	0	10	0

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ministerial Meetings

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers since 12 May 2010; [66061]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations since 12 May 2010; [66062]

(3) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66168]

(4) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66169]

Robert Neill: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64690]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has not dismissed any official for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from the Department's appraisal system in each of the last three years.

DCLG makes a distinction between under-performance and poor-performance. Under-performance occurs where the job holder contributes notably less than can be reasonable expected of the grade, while poor-performance is defined as a consistent or repeated failure by a member of staff to carry out effectively the requirement of their job.

The Department has a procedure for maintaining satisfactory standards of performance comprising a number of warnings which could result in disciplinary action and ultimately lead to dismissal for poor-performance.

Enterprise Zones

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he will take into account *(a)* sub-regional unemployment figures, *(b)* levels of pay and *(c)* skill levels when considering applications for the next round of enterprise zones. [64947]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Government will assess how proposed enterprise zones can best deliver local growth and jobs.

As set out in the guidance published on 27 May 2011, the assessment of bids will focus on three criteria: the extent to which the bid will deliver growth; the value for the money of the bid; and if the plans for delivery are robust.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change is in his Department's grant to each precepting fire and rescue authority between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [64889]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Figures for year-on-year changes in Formula Grant in 2011-12 compared with adjusted 2010-11 figures, from which percentage changes can be obtained for single-tier fire and rescue authorities, are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/1112chngs.xls

Details of changes in the revenue spending power for all authorities including fire and rescue authorities from 2010-11 to 2011-12 are also available, at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spannexas.xls

Health Inequalities

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the outcome of the Marmot Review into health inequalities in England; and if he will make a statement. [66171]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made an individual assessment of the outcome of the Marmot Review on health inequalities. We have worked closely with other Departments on the public health reforms and through the Public Health Sub-Committee to ensure a cross-government approach in addressing the social determinants of health inequalities. The public health consultation ran until 31 March 2011 and the Government will be responding in due course.

Homelessness

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of likely levels of homelessness in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [65571]

Grant Shapps: This Department has not made forecasts for future levels of homelessness.

Housing: Older People

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage and promote the provision of specialist homes for older people moving to reside in a smaller home who wish to remain homeowners. [R] [65953]

Andrew Stunell: Current national planning policy for housing makes clear that local planning authorities should carry out a strategic housing market assessment to provide information on the level of needs and demand for housing in their area. The housing requirements of older people should be included in these assessments. Based on the requirements identified, planning authorities should develop policies and implementation strategies to ensure that sufficient, suitable land is made available to achieve their housing objectives. Clear local housing policies can encourage developers to bring forward proposals for housing which reflect market demand and the needs of different households, including older households.

The forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework consultation will cover all forms of development. This will include policy on planning for housing.

Local Government Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its public bodies have spent on the firms *(a)* Poisson Rouge and *(b)* Red Fish Corporation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and for what purpose in each case. [59218]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 361W.

£3,417.71 was paid to Poisson Rouge, an events management company who arranged the venue and team building.

The Department's finance system has made no records of other payments to *(a)* Poisson Rouge or *(b)* Red Fish Corporation in each of the last five years. Details of expenditure by the Department's public bodies are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Resources Review

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department *(a)* are working on the local government resources review and *(b)* have been seconded to HM Treasury to work on the review. [65961]

Robert Neill: The work of the local government resource review has been taken forward by existing teams within the Department for Communities and Local Government, alongside their existing policy responsibilities. Taking account of support from legal and analyst colleagues, 14 officials have been involved in the substantive work of the review at various times. In addition, support has been provided by three additional members of staff, one of whom is employed by HM Treasury but who is co-located with this Department.

Local Government: Debts

Nigel Mills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much interest on debt has been paid by each local authority in England in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of interest on debt that will be paid by each local authority in England in 2011-12. [65788]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives information on interest payable and similar charges by each local authority in England for outturn 2009-10 and budget estimates for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Local Government: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities regarding the promotion of local businesses and employment in their procurement policies. [66142]

Robert Neill: Procurement in local government is a matter for local discretion. My Department does not prescribe to local authorities how they should promote local businesses and employment in their procurement policies. Government are, though, committed to encouraging a more open and level playing field for small and medium enterprises to bid for contracts. In February, the Prime Minister launched a new, free-to-use online Contracts Finder portal and simplified pre-qualification questionnaire to make it easier and cheaper for small and medium enterprises to bid for public sector opportunities.

DCLG has also recently consulted on new statutory guidance on Best Value (the consultation closed on 14 June). It makes clear that councils should seek to avoid making disproportionate reductions to small and medium enterprises and the voluntary and community sector.

The new Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency will also ensure greater accountability and scrutiny on the awarding of contracts over £500.

Non-domestic Rates: Durham

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the revenues of Durham county council of localising business rates. [66170]

Robert Neill: No assessment has been made of the effect on the revenues of Durham county council of localising business rates. The Local Government Resource Review has been considering options to allow local authorities to keep at least a proportion of their business rates. The review will be publishing shortly its proposals for consultation.

The Government have been clear that any proposals will ensure that all councils will have adequate resources to meet the needs of their local community. As the Deputy Prime Minister recently said to the Local Government Association's annual conference, no local authority will receive less funding when the new arrangements are introduced than they would have done under the previous funding system.

Recycling: Schools

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he issues to local authorities on the practice of charging schools for recycling. [66091]

Robert Neill: My Department has not issued any guidance to local authorities on the practice of charging schools for recycling.

Social Rented Housing

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on new social housing for rent in *(a)* the City of York and *(b)* England in each year since 2005; and how much it expects to spend for such purposes in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [65613]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows the grant funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme, Local Authority New Build Programme and Kickstart programme for social rent in each financial year in the City of York local authority area and in England. This includes both new build and acquisition and refurbishment.

£ million

Period	*City of York*	*England*
2005-06	0.87	933
2006-07	0.83	1,433
2007-08	2.44	1,552
2008-09	6.36	2,038
2009-10	1.41	2,992
2010-11	3.58	2,110

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

We are investing nearly £4.5 billion to help deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes for Affordable Rent and Affordable Home Ownership in England from 2011-12 to 2014-15. Figures for individual authorities are not yet available.

EDUCATION

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65336]

Tim Loughton: In the period between 1 September 2010 and 12 July 2011, the Department for Education made five statutory instruments which imposed costs on business. In the case of these five statutory instruments, impact assessments were carried out which identified the likely costs implications associated with their implementation. These impact assessments can be viewed using the links provided.

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503850/pdfs/ukdsiem_9780111503850_en.pdf

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2011:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/553/pdfs/uksiem_20110553_en.pdf

The School Finance (England) Regulations 2011:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/371/pdfs/uksiem_20110371_en.pdf

The Visits to Former Looked After Children in Detention (England) Regulations 2010:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2797/pdfs/uksiem_20102797_en.pdf

The Childcare (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2010:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/307/pdfs/uksiem_20100307_en.pdf

None of the statutory instruments which were revoked by the Department between 1 September 2010 and 12 July 2011 imposed any costs on business.

The one-in, one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September 2010, did not come into force until January 2011. A list of regulatory measures introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

None of the statutory instruments which have been made or revoked by the Department since January 2011 has been excluded from the one-in, one-out regulatory management system on the basis that they either addressed (i) emergencies, or (ii) systemic financial risks.

CABINET OFFICE

Ministerial Meetings

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66164]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011; [66166]

Mr Maude: As has been the practice of previous administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department offers to Government Departments on the promotion of local businesses and employment in their procurement policies. [66138]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 629W. Contracting authorities are required to treat suppliers from across the UK and from the EU and various other countries on an equal footing.

Authorities cannot prescribe the deployment of local labour, although clearly for some types of contract, such as those requiring face-to-face services, locally-based labour is more likely.

New Businesses: Romsey

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many business start-ups there have been in Romsey and Southampton North constituency since 22 June 2010. [66446]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many business start-ups there have been in Romsey and Southampton North constituency since 22 June 2010. [66446]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, unfortunately these statistics are not available for 2010. The latest data for business births are for 2009.

Pay: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average weekly gross earnings of full-time *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* people in York were in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year (A) in cash terms and (B) at constant prices. [65675]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average weekly gross earnings of full-time (a) men, (b) women and (c) people in York were in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year (A) in cash terms and (B) at constant prices. (65675)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

The following tables show the median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in York in April each year from 1997 to 2010 and also these estimates expressed in 2010 prices by using the Retail Price Index as a price deflator.

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employee jobs[1] in York in April for years 1997 to 2010

			£
		Full-time	
	Men	*Women*	*All*
1997	*363	*235	*297
1998	*372	*250	323
1999	*382	*267	*340
2000	*403	*286	368
2001	*402	*303	372
2002	448	*306	*400
2003	*446	*335	405
2004	*460	*342	*419
2005	*454	*356	414
2006	481	*391	451
2007	*500	*393.	*462
2008	*483	**398	*462
2009	*527	*400	*476
2010	*505	*447	*479

Full-time earnings at 2010 prices[2]

			£
	Men	*Women*	*All*
1997	518	335	424
1998	510	342	442
1999	516	360	458
2000	528	375	482
2001	517	391	479
2002	568	388	507
2003	548	412	497
2004	552	411	503
2005	527	414	482
2006	545	443	511
2007	542	426	501
2008	503	415	481
2009	555	421	501
2010	505	447	479

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[2] Estimates of earnings at 2010 prices have been derived using the Retail Prices Index as the price deflator.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:
CV<=5%
* CV >5% and <= 10%
** CV > 10% and <=20%
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics

TREASURY

Ministerial Meetings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations, including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66069]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66071]

Justine Greening: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66333]

Justine Greening: The details requested can be found in HM Treasury's 2010-11 annual report and accounts, chapter 9, remuneration report, HC984.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65402]

Justine Greening: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, the Treasury introduced one regulation which imposed costs on business: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. The average costs to business were estimated to be £26 million a year over six years, with direct benefits of between zero and £26 million a year to heavily indebted poor countries.

In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, the Treasury did not revoke any regulations that imposed costs on business.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65403]

Justine Greening: In the six months *(a)* prior to and *(b)* after 1 September 2010 the Treasury has introduced the following statutory instruments which do not impose costs on business:

(a) Introduced before 1 September 2010:

Statutory instrument number	*Title*	*Date made*
2010/2220	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2010	7 September 2010
2010/1880	The International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2010. This Order is not regulatory.	21 July 2010
2010/1197	The Al-Qaida and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010	7 April 2010

(b) Introduced after 1 September 2010:

Statutory instrument number	*Title*	*Date made*
2011/548	The Libya (Financial Sanctions) Order	28 February 2011
2010/2937	The Iran (European Union Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2010	9 December 2010
2010/2956	The Somalia (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010	13 December 2010
2010/2613	The Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions)(Amendment) Regulations 2010	27 October 2010
2010/2628	The Capital Requirements (Amendment) Regulations 2010	28 October 2010
2010/3023	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Administration Orders Relating to Insurers) Order 2010	18 December 2010
2011/239	The Investment Bank (Amendment of Definition) Order 2011	7 February 2011
2011/245	The Investment Bank Special Administration Regulations 2011	7 February 2011
2010/2578 (S.5)	The Bank Administration (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010	21 October 2010
2010/2583	The Bank Administration (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2010	20 October 2010
2010/2586	The Bank Insolvency (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010 (S.7)	21 October 2010
2010/2579	The Bank Insolvency (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2010	20 October 2010
2010/2854 (S.6)	The Building Society Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 2010	21 October 2010
2010/2581	The Building Society Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2010	20 October 2010
2010/2580	The Building Society Special Administration (England and Wales) Rules	20 October 2010
2011/133	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Order 2011	25 January 2011
2010/2479	The Premium Savings Bonds (Amendment etc) Regulations 2010	11 October 2010

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one, in one out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65406]

Justine Greening: Since 1 September 2010, the Treasury has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked the following regulations which impose costs on business:

(a) Introduced

SI number	*Name of regulation introduced*	*Costs/benefits*
No. 2010/2993	The Financial Markets and Insolvency (Settlement Finality and Financial Collateral Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2010: EU directive not in scope of One In One Out	£0.5 million transitional costs, estimated £15 billion benefits, based on EU Commission Impact Assessment. Equivalent annual net benefit to business > £1 billion
No. 2011/99	The Electronic Money Regulations 2011: EU directive, not in scope of One In One Out	£1 million transitional costs, £7 million transitional benefits. £0.7 million Equivalent Annual Net benefit to business over 10 years
	The Terrorist Asset-Freezing Act 2010	The costs imposed by this Act replicate the costs removed by the revocation of SIs 2001/3365, 2203/1297, 2005/1525, 2006/2657, 2009/1747, 2009/1911 so there was no net effect on business

(b) Revoked

Statutory instrument number	*Name of regulation revoked*	*Costs/savings*
No. 2011/883	The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 1993	Savings of £10.2 million per year in conjunction with the Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011 The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 2011 revoked The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 1993 (as of 1 October 2011), but all the provisions in the 1993 regulations were included with amendments to allow electronic communications
(S.I. 2001/3365)	Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010
(S.I.2003/1297)	Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (Amendment) Regulations 2003	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010
(S.I. 2005/1525)	Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001(Amendment) Regulations 2005	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010
(S.I. 2006/2657)	Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010
(S.I. 2009/1747)	Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010
(S.I. 2009/1911)	Financial Restrictions Proceedings (UN Terrorism Orders) Order 2009	The costs removed by this revocation were replaced by the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010

(i) Since 1 September 2010, my Department has introduced the following regulation which was excluded from the one in, one out system because it was an emergency:

	Name of regulation	*Costs/benefits*
2011/548	The Libya (Financial Sanctions) Order	Minimal costs on business

A number of asset freezing regulations introduced dealt with emergency situations; however these were exempt from the one in, one out system because they were EU related measures.

(ii) Since 1 September 2010, my Department has introduced the following Statutory Instruments which have been excluded from the one, in one out system because they address systemic financial risk.

Systemic financial risk

SI number	*Name of regulation*	*Costs/benefits*
2010/3023	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Administration Orders Relating to Insurers) Order 2010	No net cost to business
2011/239	The Investment Bank (Amendment of Definition) Order 2011	No net cost to business

Systemic financial risk

SI number	*Name of regulation*	*Costs/benefits*
2011/245	The Investment Bank Special Administration Regulations 2011	No net cost to business
2010/2220	The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2578 (S.5)	The Bank Administration (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2583	The Bank Administration (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2586 (S.7)	The Bank Insolvency (Scotland) (Amendment) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2579	The Bank Insolvency (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2854 (S.6)	The Building Society Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2581	The Building Society Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2010/2580	The Building Society Special Administration (England and Wales) Rules 2010	No net cost to business
2011/1301	The Investment Bank Special Administration (England and Wales) Rules 2011	No net cost to business
2010/2628	The Capital Requirements (Amendment) Regulations 2010	No net cost to business
No. 2010/2993	The Financial Markets and Insolvency (Settlement Finality and Financial Collateral Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	£0.5 million transitional costs, estimated £15 billion benefits, based on EU Commission Impact Assessment. Equivalent annual net benefit to business > £1 billion

Departmental Visits Abroad

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011 *Official Report,* columns 1241-2W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North (Ann McKechin), on Bilderberg Group, when he will post on his departmental website data of expenditure on official overseas visits up to the end of June 2011. [65717]

Justine Greening: The Department has committed to publish details of all Ministers, meetings, hospitality and overseas travel. This is in accordance with the Government's transparency agenda.

Details of the costs of overseas travel are published quarterly on the Treasury website on the following page:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

It is expected that the quarter covering 1 January to 31 March will be published shortly. The quarter covering 1 April to 31 June will be published in due course.

Energy: Prices

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will use the increased revenue to the Exchequer resulting from energy suppliers' recent increases in prices to support measures to reduce fuel poverty. [66213]

Justine Greening: The Government are committed to addressing fuel poverty, notably by introducing the Warm Home Discount to assist more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills and introducing the Green Deal from 2012 so that households and businesses can improve their energy efficiency at no upfront cost, repaying through their savings on energy bills.

Financial Services: Taxation

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next expects to discuss the proposal for a financial activities tax with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* other international counterparts. [65862]

Mr Hoban: To inform further discussions of financial sector taxation, ECOFIN asked the European Commission to prepare an impact assessment on financial sector taxation, including financial activities taxes. The Commission has now stated that it plans to publish this impact assessment alongside proposals on financial sector taxation in the autumn.

Bona Vacantia

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of assets which passed to the Crown as bona vacantia in each of the last five years. [65732]

Justine Greening: The value of the assets transferred to the Crown as bona vacantia for each of the last five years was:

	Value (£ million)
2010-11	25
2009-10	40
2008-09	18
2007-08	30
2006-07	[1]37

[1] Which included a payment of £30 million to reduce a surplus balance.

These figures are published annually in the Crown Nominee Accounts.

Liverpool Cruise Terminal

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Transport and *(b)* representatives of Peel Holdings on the future operational role and functions of the Liverpool Cruise Terminal. [66201]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with other Departments and a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions. Department for Transport (DFT) launched a consultation on 7 July 2011 on the City of Liverpool cruise terminal and the proposal to withdraw DFT's objection to the removal of a grant condition which precludes its use for turnaround cruise operations.

Loans: Belarus

Mr Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that the UK will not support an IMF loan to Belarus unless there is conditionality in respect of improvements in human rights and the release of political prisoners. [65737]

Mr Hoban: We will assess Belarus's request for assistance from the IMF on its merits, taking account in particular whether Belarus will implement serious and far reaching reform. The latest IMF press release can be found at:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2011/pr11229.htm

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 9 May and 8 June 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr Roy Jennings. [66155]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on the 16 May and again on 30 June to set out the Government's position on Equitable Life. These letters were also the Treasury's response to outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised regarding Equitable Life. For convenience my officials have resent the letters to my hon. Friend.

National Insurance: Income Tax

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the role of the contributory system in his proposed review of taxation and national insurance. [66350]

Mr Gauke: The Government will maintain the contributory principle which underpins the national insurance system, and will ensure that this is reflected in any proposed reforms. The Chancellor set this policy out in his speech at Budget 2011. It was confirmed in the document 'Integrating the operation of income tax and National Insurance contributions: A call for evidence', which was published on the Treasury website on 11 July:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_income_tax_national_insurance_contributions.htm

The call for evidence will inform the Government's proposals for reform, on which they will consult in the autumn.

Public Sector: Pensions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the current *(a)* average employee contribution, *(b)* average employer contribution and *(c)* retirement age is in the pension schemes for (i) teaching, (ii) NHS, (iii) civil service, (iv) warranted police, (v) fire service, (vi) armed forces and (vii) local government; [65181]

(2) what changes are proposed to the *(a)* average employee contribution, *(b)* average employer contribution and *(c)* retirement age in the pension schemes for (i) teaching, (ii) NHS, (iii) civil service, (iv) warranted police, (v) fire service, (vi) armed forces and (vii) local government. [65182]

Danny Alexander: The current average employee contribution and employer contribution for the main public service schemes are set out in Table 3G of the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC) chaired by former Labour Minister Lord Hutton of Furness. The average retirement age in the main public service schemes are presented in column 3 of Table B1 of the IPSPC's interim report.

Spending review 2010 announced that the Government would make progressive changes to employee contributions saving £2.8 billion pa by 2014-15 and that the armed forces will be exempted from these changes. This will result in an average increase of 3.2pp across the other public service schemes. The design and distribution of this increase is being considered in discussion with trade unions and other stakeholders.

On retirement ages, one of Lord Hutton's recommendations was that the normal pension age for public servants, except for the police, firefighters and armed forces, should be linked to the state pension age. At Budget 2011 the Government accepted all of Lord Hutton's recommendations as basis for consultation with trades unions and other stakeholders.

Rescue Services: Diesel Fuel

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to permit mountain rescue teams to use red diesel in rescue vehicles. [63380]

Justine Greening: Red diesel is a duty rebated fuel for exclusive use away from public roads. It would be difficult to make a clear distinction between vehicles used by mountain rescue teams and privately owned vehicles and would risk undermining fuel duty anti-evasion efforts.

However, discussions are continuing on determining a suitable grant system for distributing funds to support the purchase of mountain rescue equipment and an announcement will be made in due course.

Aviation: Pollution Control

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 904W, on aviation: pollution control, what fiscal steps his Department is taking to create incentives for the aviation industry to reduce aircraft noise. [66153]

Justine Greening: Noise levels from aircraft in the UK are an important issue that can best be addressed through regulatory means. Aircraft noise certification levels are set internationally by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the Government are pushing for these levels to be tightened for new aircraft types.

The Government published a scoping document in March 2011 seeking views on a range of strategic issues, including noise. The responses to the scoping document will inform the development of a sustainable framework for UK aviation which will be published for consultation in March 2012.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was, in real terms, of replacing *(a)* family credit with working families tax credit, and *(b)* working families tax credit with (i) child tax credit and (ii) working tax credit. [65638]

Mr Gauke: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welsh Assembly Government: Borrowing

Paul Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to meet the First Minister of Wales to discuss the granting of borrowing powers to the Welsh Government. [64791]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers meet with Ministers of the devolved Administrations from time to time to discuss various issues.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ministerial Meetings

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department have attended since his appointment which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB; [66007]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66010]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 311-14.

Carbon Emissions

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what action he is taking to reduce carbon emissions. [66291]

Gregory Barker: The Prime Minister pledged to make this the greenest Government ever and recently announced that carbon emissions from Government HQs and offices have been cut by nearly 14% in just one year. Following this, he committed the Government to go further by reducing emissions by 25% by 2015. We are also supporting greater energy efficiency across the economy by introducing the Green Deal, leading technological development with support for the world's first commercial scale CCS demonstration, and rolling-out smart meters and a smart grid will build on this progress. Moreover, on 12 July 2011 the Government published 'Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity'. The White Paper sets out key reforms to the electricity market to attract investment, reduce the impact on consumer bills, and create a secure mix of low-carbon electricity sources including renewables, new nuclear and carbon capture and storage.

Emissions projections, published in May 2011, show that the UK is on track, on central forecasts, to meet our first three carbon budgets and our 2020 target to reduce emissions by at least 34% against the 1990 baseline. Emissions have already been reduced by over 26%, taking into account the effects of emissions trading.

We also recently set in legislation the level of the fourth carbon budget for the 2023–27 period which equates to a 50% reduction in emissions. This autumn Government will be publishing a comprehensive strategy which will set out how the fourth carbon budget might be met, pathways to our 2050 target as well as a live Carbon Plan which will set out shorter-term actions the Government commits to undertake, and key milestones to keep us on track to delivering our ambitious climate change goals.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66758]

Gregory Barker: The carbon dioxide emissions from DECC's estate were 93.75 tonnes in June 2010, and 76.87 tonnes in June 2011.

Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the *(a)* current and *(b)* future costs to (i) individual energy consumers and (ii) the public purse of onshore wind. [64641]

Charles Hendry: Renewables Obligation (RO) support has been classified as "tax and spend" by the Office for National Statistics.

Onshore wind stations were issued with 7,237,999 Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) in 2009-10, according to Ofgem's latest RO annual report. At a ROC value for that year of £52.36, this implies a nominal terms onshore wind cost to consumers of around £380 million under the RO in 2009-10.

The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap 2011 suggests a central range of 24-32TWh/y of onshore wind generation in 2020. This would cost around £l-1.3 billion in RO support in 2010-11 prices.

Energy: Prices

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase awareness of social tariffs offered by energy companies. [65690]

Gregory Barker: Energy suppliers are now required by law to provide support with energy costs to more of their most low income and vulnerable consumers through the Warm Home Discount scheme. Over the next four years they will provide support worth up to £1.1 billion.

Under arrangements designed to provide a smooth transition from the previous voluntary agreement, which ended in March 2011, suppliers are able to continue offering social and discounted tariffs as part of the Warm Home Discount scheme. How these tariffs are made available to vulnerable consumers is a matter for the energy suppliers and will be monitored by Ofgem.

The majority of the new support available this year will be in the form of rebates to a core group of older poor pensioners—who will be identified to energy suppliers by Government through a data matching and sweep-up process using benefit information. We estimate (based on current casework figures) that about 600,000 of these pensioners will receive a rebate worth £120 in winter 2011-12.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to mitigate the impact on consumers of energy price rises. [65691]

Charles Hendry: Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means strong competition in the marketplace. We are taking a range of actions to boost competition and help consumers control their costs, including:

1. Requiring better information on bills to facilitate switching between suppliers.

2. Introducing the Warm Home Discount scheme to help tackle fuel poverty.

3. Extending the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme, which obligates energy suppliers to help households install energy efficiency measures.

4. Introducing the Green Deal to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

5. Cutting red tape for smaller suppliers.

In addition, Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition and consumer engagement (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its Retail Market Review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the impact of projected changes in energy prices for domestic *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity on the level of fuel poverty in (i) Glasgow, (ii) Scotland and (iii) the UK. [66357]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken at UK level.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty will lead to upward pressure on fuel poverty in 2011 and 2012. Nevertheless, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and the 2011 English Housing Survey (EHS) and other housing surveys in each of the devolved Administrations. These housing surveys provide vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

However, an assessment of the likely impact of all changes for England will be made today when DECC will publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effects of his Department's policies on the level of fuel poverty in *(a)* Glasgow, (b) Scotland and *(c)* the UK in (i) each of the next four financial years, (ii) by 2020 and (iii) by 2030. [66358]

Gregory Barker: The annual report on fuel poverty statistics, published today, shows that in 2009 there were around 5.5 million fuel poor households in the UK. The Department does not calculate projected figures for the UK.

Fuel poverty is a devolved issue. Scotland publishes its own report on their national level of fuel poverty. The latest report was published in November 2010 and relates to fuel poverty in 2009. The report is available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/11/23125350/0

The Scottish Government also publish fuel poverty figures at a local authority level, which are available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/LA0709

Heat

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in his Department's internal strategic analysis on the future supply of heat in the UK. [64362]

Gregory Barker: DECC's internal strategic analysis on heat supply continues and will inform the Government's response to the Committee on Climate Change's Fourth Carbon Budget report in the autumn.

Smart Meters

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to allow people to opt-out of the national roll-out of smart meters on health grounds. [65787]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise that there may be a small proportion of customers who have concerns of one kind or another about receiving a smart meter. These may include people with concerns about electromagnetic sensitivity. During the coming months, we will be doing further work to make sure we fully understand the concerns individuals may have and how the programme can best respond to them.

We estimate that over the next 20 years, the roll-out of smart meters will deliver £7.3 billion net benefits to consumers, energy suppliers and networks. A large proportion of the benefits of smart metering are underpinned by the ability to access the meter remotely and to provide customers with real time data on their gas and electricity consumption.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of radiofrequency signals emitted by smart meters on the health of householders. [65786]

Charles Hendry: At this stage communications technology solutions have not been selected for the smart metering system. Both wired and wireless technologies exist that could be used, and for practical and technical reasons, both will need to be utilised by installers during the rollout.

Where wireless technologies are used they will have to comply with relevant regulations, best practice and international standards as set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. Compliance with these standards will be a requirement for the smart metering equipment. Suppliers will have a licence obligation to install smart metering equipment that meets the requirements.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is responsible for providing advice on standards of protection for exposure to non-ionising radiation, including the radio frequency electromagnetic fields (radio waves) associated with smart metering technologies. The programme will continue to engage with the Department of Health, HPA and our full range of other stakeholders on all relevant practical issues as work progresses on communications for smart metering.

We estimate that over the next 20 years, the rollout of smart meters will deliver £7.3 billion net benefits to consumers, energy suppliers and networks. A large proportion of the benefits of smart metering are underpinned by the ability to access the meter remotely and to provide customers with real time data on their gas and electricity consumption.

North Sea Oil: Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that the regulatory regime applying to safety representatives on offshore oil and gas installations in the North Sea is included in the scope of the current review of the UK oil and gas safety regime. [66259]

Charles Hendry: The Panel established earlier this year to review the UK's regime for regulating the upstream oil and gas sector has been gathering views and evidence from a range of stakeholders including the relevant trade unions. I can confirm that the role of safety representatives is being considered as part of the review, the findings of which will be published later this year.

Energy Security

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of levels of future changes in levels of oil production on the security of UK energy supplies. [65449]

Charles Hendry: The security of the UK's energy supplies is assessed annually in the statutory Security of Supply Report, produced jointly by DECC and Ofgem, and available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/en_security/sec_supply_rep/sec_supply_rep.aspx

Total UK oil production peaked in 1999 and has since declined by around half. But the security of UK energy supplies depends more on global oil markets than UK oil production.

The UK looks at a variety of sources to assess the security of global oil supplies in the future, including the International Energy Agency, industry and other research organisations. These conclude that in the longer term conventional oil production is unlikely to grow as it has in the past, so there is a risk of significant rises in oil prices and volatility that needs to be tackled.

The Government are taking a number of actions to promote secure oil supplies, including working through international partners such as the International Energy Forum (IEF) and G20 to reduce oil demand, improve the functioning of the global oil market, and enhance transparency in physical and financial oil markets.

Solar Power: Housing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1375W, on solar power: housing, whether he has *(a)* met and *(b)* corresponded with representatives of the solar photovoltaic sector on the subject of (i) regulations for and (ii) the implementation by local authorities of planning regulations for the installation of solar photovoltaics on domestic properties. [66527]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers meet regularly with industry representatives to discuss a range of issues. It has been the practice of successive Administrations not to reveal details of such meetings.

Tidal Power: Manpower

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people to be employed by the wave and tidal energy sector in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030, *(c)* 2040 and *(d)* 2050. [65708]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not made any independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the wave and tidal sector up to 2050. However, RenewableUK state in their 2010 report "Channelling the Energy—A Way Forward for the UK Wave and Tidal Industry Towards 2020" that the potential numbers of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working directly in the marine energy industry could be:

	Number of individuals directly employed
2020	10,000
2035	19,500
2050	19,000

There would also be a substantial number of additional induced jobs in the wider economy supplying the wave and tidal sector.

Wind Power

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the efficiency of onshore wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [64316]

Charles Hendry: Onshore wind is a cost effective source of renewable energy despite its intermittency and load factors which averaged 21.5% in 2010.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to invest in offshore wind off the coast of Suffolk. [65830]

Charles Hendry: Government are working to support the deployment of offshore wind and attract turbine manufacturers to the UK. It is for manufacturers, not Government, to decide where the best locations are from a business perspective. The Government's focus is on ensuring that investors have confidence in the development of the UK market more widely. As part of this work, the Renewables Roadmap published this week shows that a central scenario of up to 18 GW of UK offshore wind deployment is possible by 2020. The Electricity Market Reform White Paper published on 12 July also set out the long-term framework needed to give investors confidence.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main financial mechanism for incentivising the deployment of large-scale renewable technologies, including offshore wind. New offshore windfarms are currently awarded two Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) per MWh.

The Renewables Roadmap announced up to £30 million, subject to value-for-money assessment, to support innovation in the production of offshore wind components over the next four years.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Entrepreneurs

20. **James Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage entrepreneurship among young people. [66036]

Mr Willetts: We want every young person to have hands-on experience of enterprise in school, college and university. That is why we are supporting the development of student enterprise societies in every university by 2015.

In particular we want stronger links between universities and business. I have asked Professor Sir Tim Wilson to undertake a review into how we make our country the best place in the world for university-industry collaboration. We want to reverse the decline in sandwich courses inherited from the previous Government.

Inward Investment

21. **Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made on increasing levels of inward investment; and if he will make a statement. [66037]

Mr Davey: As reported in the written ministerial statement of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, the UK recorded a strong inward investment performance in 2010/11, attracting 1,434 projects one of the highest project figures ever.

These inward investments created and safeguarded an estimated 94,598 jobs, slightly up from previous year.

Space Sector

22. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the state of the space sector; and if he will make a statement. [66038]

Mr Willetts: The space sector has been growing at some 8% a year, even during the recession. That is why we made it a priority in the growth review. We are working with industry to finance the national space technology programme and to accelerate the development of the International Space Innovation Centre.

Only last week Surrey Satellites, with active Government support, secured a £110 million contract to provide data and services from three satellites to China.

Apprenticeships

23. **Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* England have started an apprenticeship in 2011. [66039]

Vince Cable: In the first three-quarters of this academic year there have been 420 apprenticeships started in the Enfield North constituency; 28,120 apprenticeships started in London; and 326,700 apprenticeships started in England. Overall, this is 114,000 more than last year—over a 50% increase. By the end of this spending review there will be funding for 250,000 more adult apprenticeships than were planned by the previous Government.

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were in the first nine months of the 2010-11 academic year in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* in Nuneaton constituency. [65570]

Mr Willetts: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in England and Nuneaton parliamentary constituency in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year, from August 2010 to April 2011, based on provisional data.

Figures for apprenticeship starts in Wales in 2010/11 are not currently available—they will be published in November 2011 by the Welsh Government.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in England and Nuneaton constituency, between 1 August 2010 and 30 April 2011 (provisional)

	Number
Nuneaton constituency	560
England	326,700

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to take on apprentices. [65649]

Mr Willetts: Apprenticeships provide substantial economic benefit both to employers and to their workers. It is therefore crucial that smaller employers, who form the backbone of our economy, have the opportunity to reap the benefits that apprenticeships offer. We are working to ensure that the process all employers go through to recruit an apprentice is as straightforward as possible. This includes creating a new on-line toolkit, taking employers through the 'end to end' journey from initial interest to actual recruitment, and developing new delivery standards enabling employers to fully understand the level of service they can expect from the National Apprenticeship Service and the apprenticeship provider.

We are also working with employer representative bodies (such as the Federation of Small Business and the British Chamber of Commerce) as well as employers from small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to identify the barriers these firms may face in recruiting an apprentice. We will come forward in the autumn with proposals to facilitate greater SME engagement with apprenticeships.

Microbusiness

24. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he taking to support the growth of microbusinesses. [66040]

Mr Prisk: In addition to cutting small firms corporation tax rates and extending tax relief we are modernising business information online cutting red tape and have a national network of business mentors to help small firms grow.

Apprentices: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship vacancies advertised by the National Apprenticeship Service in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [65564]

Mr Willetts: Apprenticeship vacancies (on line system) data show that for the academic year 2010/11 employers posted 66,560 apprenticeship vacancies in England between 1 August 2010 and 30 June 2011. Information on the number of vacancies posted at parliamentary constituency and Government office region levels of geography is not available. Apprenticeship vacancies are available to candidates based across England.

Apprenticeship vacancy reports are updated on a monthly basis and published by National Apprenticeship Service on the fourth day of each calendar month at the following link:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship_vacancy_reports/

Apprenticeship places are secured through a range of sources. The latest available data for academic year 2010/11 show there were a total of 326,700[1] apprenticeship starts between August 2010 and April 2011 (provisional) in England.

[1] Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Kettering

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Kettering, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England have started an apprenticeship in 2011. [66096]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows a quarterly breakdown of apprenticeship starts in Kettering parliamentary constituency, Northamptonshire local education authority and England in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year, from August 2010 to April 2011, based on provisional data.

Figures relating to the calendar year are not available, however quarterly provisional totals for each of the last three quarters are shown for reference.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts Kettering, Northamptonshire local education authority and England, between August 1 2010 and 30 April 2011 (provisional)

	August 2010 to October 2010[1]	*November 2010 to January 2011*[1]	*February 2011 to April 2011*[1]	*August 2010 to April 2011*[1]
Kettering constituency	240	190	190	620
Northamptonshire local education authority	1,570	1,160	1,370	4,090

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts Kettering, Northamptonshire local education authority and England, between August 1 2010 and 30 April 2011 (provisional)

	August 2010 to October 2010[1]	*November 2010 to January 2011*[1]	*February 2011 to April 2011*[1]	*August 2010 to April 2011*[1]
England	122,200	93,900	110,600	326,700

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 except England total which is rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23rd June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Copyright: Broadcasting

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Broadcasting Treaty negotiations. [65755]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* International protection of broadcasters' rights is out of date. In particular, piracy of broadcasts on the internet is a border-crossing phenomenon requiring international action. The UK therefore strongly supports proposals to update the protection of broadcasters at a global level through a treaty at World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), including providing broadcasters with an exclusive right to authorise re-transmission over the internet.

Employment: Young People

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase employment opportunities for young people. [65648]

Mr Willetts: The Government are creating the conditions for sustainable private sector growth, upon which the creation of new jobs for both young and older adults depends.

We are expanding the apprenticeships programme and will fund up to 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years compared to the previous Government's plans. We are also introducing a new Access to Apprenticeships pathway for 16 to 24-year-olds that will benefit up to 10,000 vulnerable young people who need extra help to become an apprentice.

In addition, we will help young people into work through pre-employment training for those on active benefits, work experience opportunities and continuation of the graduate talent pool. The Government's new Work programme was recently launched and will provide those young people who are unemployed for longer with personalised support and training to help them into sustainable employment.

High Street Review

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of high street is being used for the review on the future of the high street led by Mary Portas; and which geographical areas the review covers. [65987]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* For the purposes of this independent review, a high street is defined as a geographically distinct area within a built-up area (i.e. a village, town, city or conurbation) which contains a concentration of publicly accessible facilities which may include retail outlets, leisure facilities, and public amenities. The geographical coverage of the review is England.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many hours Mary Portas plans to work *(a)* each week and *(b)* in total on the independent review of the future of the high street. [65995]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* Mary Portas is working on this review in her own time and will commit the time necessary to complete it. Mary Portas is not being paid for the time she spends on the review.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to regulate the recruitment practices of private for-profit higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement. [66157]

Mr Willetts: The White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the system" (Cm 8122) sets out proposals for a single, transparent regulatory framework for all providers. There will be a new role for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as lead regulator.

For-profit higher education institutions that want their students to access student support funding would have to comply with requirements on quality, dispute resolution, information, access (if charging over the basic tuition charge), financial sustainability, any reformed student number controls and tuition charge caps. As now, HEFCE would sit within a framework of "arm's length" principles precluding it from any role in admissions. This framework, on which we will consult, provides the necessary safeguards for students in respect of quality and information; protects the autonomy of institutions; and ensures government is able to maintain control of its financial exposure.

Higher Education: Admissions

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people from York Central constituency *(a)* applied for and *(b)* started a degree course in each year between 1997 and 2010; and how many have applied to start a degree course in 2011. [65739]

Mr Willetts: The figures are given in the table.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses from York Central constituency aged 20 or under

	Applicants	Accepted applicants
1997	305	242
1998	316	246
1999	334	274
2000	342	284
2001	375	312
2002	375	320
2003	393	321
2004	403	347
2005	439	366
2006	391	327
2007	423	354
2008	430	362
2009	486	389
2010	502	388
2011	560	—

Notes:

1. Figures for the years up to 2010 are final end of year totals and include applicants who applied via the main UCAS application scheme, which closes on 30 June, or via clearing.
2. Applicant figures for 2011 entry are the latest figures as at 30 June.

Source:

UCAS

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for undergraduate study were made to *(a)* the University of York, *(b)* York St John University and *(c)* all English universities in each year since 1997. [65740]

Mr Willetts: The figures are given in the table.

UCAS main scheme applications to University of York, York St John University and England 1997 to 2010—Full-time undergraduate courses

	University of York	York St John University	All institutions in England
1997	15,027	4,890	1,760,143
1998	15,846	4,228	1,713,484
1999	15,947	3,794	1,661,828
2000	16,479	3,785	1,636,336
2001	16,606	4,137	1,644,864
2002	19,447	3,523	1,650,420
2003	20,695	4,661	1,709,911
2004	20,533	4,795	1,749,087
2005	21,441	5,447	1,909,257
2006	20,346	5,547	1,835,600
2007	20,090	6,050	1,973,194
2008	18,434	5,541	1,852,623
2009	21,543	6,194	2,021,546
2010	24,548	7,685	2,303,678

Notes:

1. Since 2009 each applicant has been able to submit up to five applications (choices), or four if they are applying to medical, dentistry or veterinary science courses. In previous years applicants were able to submit up to six applications.
2. Figures cover applicants who applied during the main application scheme which closes on 30 June. Applicants who subsequently applied during clearing are excluded.

Source:

UCAS

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on choice of university degree courses of proposals for the expansion of private degree providers; and if he will make a statement. [65818]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System" (Cm 8122) makes clear that we want a diverse, competitive system that can offer different types of higher education so that students can choose freely between a wide range of courses and providers. Overall, students are likely to see increased choice.

The White Paper also sets out plans to improve the information available to prospective students so they are able to make better informed choices about what course to study. The Key Information Set will for the first time bring together comparable information on student satisfaction, course content, assessment methods, costs, financial support and employment outcomes.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential effects on *(a)* publicly-funded universities and *(b)* standards of quality and *(c)* equity in the university sector of private sector universities offering two-year degrees for £6,000 per annum in tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [65819]

Mr Willetts: The White Paper, "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System" (Cm 8122) makes clear that we want a diverse, competitive system that can offer different types of higher education so that students can choose freely between a wide range of providers. Two-year degrees are offered currently by both publicly funded and alternative providers and offer scope for efficiencies which can deliver lower overall costs and will be attractive to those students wanting to study intensively.

We are also planning to introduce a new regulatory framework which will ensure that all providers wishing to benefit from public funding are treated on a more consistent basis with respect to quality, dispute resolution, information, access, tuition charge caps and financial stability. Students will benefit as a result.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital funding his Department and its predecessors allocated to *(a)* York college, *(b)* the university of York and *(c)* York St John university in each year since 2005. [65742]

Mr Willetts: Total capital payments for each of the institutions named since 2005 are as follows:

£

	York college	University of York St John	University of York
2004-05	0	3,371,602	10,254,589
2005-06	6,045,528	280,000	8,649,369
2006-07	7,556,909	3,101,758	3,257,349
2007-08	7,556,910	939,152	16,182,678
2008-09	0	1,308,627	31,442,103
2009-10	0	1,251,150	26,823,315
2010-11	128,950	939,136	1,746,914

The university figures given cover capital payments for both teaching and research—hence the much higher figures for the university of York. £2 million of the allocation to York is repayable in future years to Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE.)

Student Loans Company

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he plans to enable the Student Loans Company to withhold loans for students wishing to study at institutions deemed to be offering an unsatisfactory quality of higher education by the Quality Assurance Agency; and if he will make a statement; [66149]

(2) whether he plans to require higher education institutions whose students are in receipt of loans from the Student Loans Company to subscribe to the Quality Assurance Agency; and if he will make a statement. [66151]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper published on 30 June proposes a single, transparent regulatory framework with which all providers in the Higher Education system will need to comply if they wish to benefit from public funding. We will consult this summer on detailed proposals for the framework, which will include quality requirements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the impact of anaerobic digestion on achieving her Department's policy for greenhouse gas emissions reduction from agriculture in the next four years; [64530]

(2) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from anaerobic digestion to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan. [64554]

Richard Benyon: Anaerobic digestion (AD) can play an important role as a means of dealing with organic waste and avoiding, by more efficient capture and treatment, the greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with its disposal to landfill.

The Government made a commitment to work towards a 'zero waste' economy in the Coalition Programme for Government of 20 May 2010, and to introduce measures to increase energy from waste through anaerobic digestion. This was incorporated into DEFRA's Business plan. On 14 June 2011 Government published the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy sets out a vision for AD, while the Action Plan sets out the actions in detail that are needed to bring about an increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion.

The AD Strategy and Action Plan has been worked up in partnership between Government and Industry. Within the document a number of barriers have been identified and appropriate actions to overcome those hurdles, for example the development of a tool to calculate GHG savings associated with feedstocks, evidence on the value of digestates and the establishment of a working group to look at current opportunities to support environmental benefits of on-farm AD.

The Strategy does not set specific targets however the agreed actions should ensure there are no unnecessary obstacles to the development of England's AD industry.

Agriculture: Land Use

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on making available for food production suitable land which is at present set aside or otherwise unavailable. [65212]

Mr Paice: Set-aside was originally introduced as a means to control food production and this scheme was abolished from January 2009. This Government recognise that we need to produce more food while protecting the environment. I do not believe that Government should regulate if the farming industry delivers enhanced benefits on food production.

The Government strongly support the need for more growing spaces to be made available for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables, as a contribution to helping people understand more about where food comes from and to eat a healthy, sustainable diet. We are working with colleagues at DCLG which is the Department leading on the work to encourage communities to take ownership or management of significant community assets which includes food producing land such as allotments and community orchards.

Air Pollution: Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints her Department and its predecessor received about air pollution related to Heathrow airport in each of the last 10 years. [64366]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold a central register of information and datasets on complaints about air pollution related to Heathrow airport. To produce a definitive list of such complaints would involve disproportionate cost.

Ammonia

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the renegotiation of the Gothenburg Protocol on restrictions on ammonia emissions. [64539]

Richard Benyon: A key EU aim for the renegotiation of the UNECE Gothenburg Protocol is to increase ratification of a revised protocol among non-EU parties in the UNECE region, which will further reduce levels of transboundary air pollution across Europe.

The UK is fully engaged in this process. For all air pollutants likely to be covered by the revised Protocol, including ammonia, the UK supports further emission reductions in line with current national and EU policies.

Angling: Licensing

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many line caught fish licences were issued but not active during the latest period for which figures are available. [64954]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* There are very few licences issued that specifically relate to permitting a vessel to fish with hand lines. Instead, licences are structured primarily to control what species a fisherman can target. For example, a category A licence allows a fisherman to target any species subject to UK quotas. Within this, they can use a range of gears, depending on any EU or national technical conservation measures in place—for example, there are restrictions on the use of beam trawl gears based on historic activity.

There were 1,386 category A licences issued in 2010 to vessels spread around the UK, all of which could have potentially used hand line gears. Of these, for example, only 345 vessels actually fished for mackerel with hand lines in 2010 in the South West, i.e. ICES areas 7e to 7h. This does not necessarily mean that the other vessels were inactive as they may have fished with other gears.

Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on provision of incentives for animal health schemes in each of the next four financial years. [64540]

Mr Paice: Funding is available under the Rural Development Programme for England for measures to improve the animal health of farm livestock, where such support would result in improvements going significantly beyond the levels required by law, and where it would also lead to significant increases in the profitability and competitiveness of the agricultural holding concerned.

There is no specific budgetary allocation for this purpose, separate from other aspects of competitiveness support. DEFRA is currently considering a new and more nationally consistent delivery model for the remaining two and a half years of the programme so far as the socio-economic measures are concerned, and support for animal health improvement will be one of the elements which that model will cover.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department has received from the Government Chief Scientific Adviser on a badger cull; and if she will publish any such advice. [64204]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* Sir John Beddington, the Government chief scientific adviser, and his officials discussed the evidence around bovine TB and badgers with Professor Watson and DEFRA officials when the proposals (and supporting documents) in the public consultation were in development. He has also discussed this issue with me and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, DEFRA officials continue to be in regular contact with Sir John and the Government Office for Science.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the cost of *(a)* purchase of equipment, *(b)* transport, *(c)* staff training, *(d)* employment and salary and *(e)* activities associated with a large-scale badger cull in England in each year of the project. [64364]

Mr Paice: Under the proposals set out in our public consultation on bovine tuberculosis: the Government's approach to tackling the disease and consultation on a badger control policy, we would expect the farming industry to bear the direct costs of badger control. Government would fund licensing and monitoring.

An impact assessment setting out the various estimated costs was included as part of the consultation and can be found at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/100915-tb-control-measures-annexf.pdf

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which species of *(a)* wild and *(b)* domestic animal her Department has found to have contracted bovine tuberculosis. [64481]

Mr Paice: Nearly all warm-blooded animals are susceptible to bovine tuberculosis and it has been found in a range of species worldwide. As well as cattle and badgers, the species in which it has most commonly been confirmed in Britain are deer, llamas, alpacas, pigs, sheep, goats, ferrets, wild boar, cats and dogs. Further information of the number of cases in these species can be found on the DEFRA website.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the timescale for the introduction of an effective bovine TB vaccination for *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle. [64581]

Mr Paice: The first injectable badger vaccine, BadgerBCG, was licensed in March 2010. An oral badger vaccine, which may be a more practical option, is in development but is still several years away.

A cattle vaccine is also being developed. However, vaccination of cattle against TB is prohibited under existing EU legislation. This will need to be changed before a vaccine can be used in the field. Changing EU legislation is a lengthy and uncertain process which is likely to take several years.

It is therefore not possible to say with any certainty when a cattle vaccine and oral badger vaccine might be available for use in the field but it is several years away.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of bovine TB on the number of families working in the dairy industry. [64582]

Mr Paice: No work has been commissioned or reviewed specifically on the effect of bovine TB on the number of families working in or leaving the dairy industry. The decline in the number of dairy farmers is likely to be due to the combination of a range of factors and it would be difficult to precisely isolate the effect of bovine TB.

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on testing badgers that are found dead for TB. [65209]

Mr Paice: The local authority (or, in the case of motorways, the Highways Agency) is responsible for the removal of badger carcases found beside roads. Post mortem examinations to establish disease status are not routinely carried out for badgers found dead.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she made of the risk of sanctions against the Government by the EU in the event of a failure to prevent the spread of bovine TB. [65396]

Mr Paice: DEFRA and the devolved Administrations work closely with the European Commission to ensure that we comply with EU legislation and that they understand the bovine TB situation in the UK. The Commission has supported our approach, approving the UK Bovine TB Eradication Plan for 2011, which includes controls to prevent the spread of bovine TB within the UK and to other countries. On that basis the current risk of EU sanctions is low. However, cattle can only be exported if they are individually certificated, come from officially tuberculosis free herds and if over 42 days of age have passed a pre-export tuberculin skin test within the previous 30 days. This is in accordance with Community law.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccinations

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial contribution her Department has made towards research and development of oral TB vaccines for badgers in the latest period for which figures are available. [64936]

Mr Paice: Since 2005-06 DEFRA has invested over £6 million on research into oral badger vaccines.

British Waterways Board

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill in relation to the convention rights of itinerant live-aboard boaters under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [64832]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Minister for the Cabinet Office made the statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998, that in his view the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill are compatible with the convention rights. There is nothing in the powers contained in the Bill to prevent them being exercised in a way which is fully compatible with the convention.

The Public Bodies Bill is an enabling Bill and therefore the Bill itself will not effect any changes to the British Waterways Board. Subject to parliamentary approval and any necessary consultation, the Public Bodies Bill will provide the necessary enabling powers to allow an Order to be made transferring the powers and duties of the British Waterways Board in England and Wales to the proposed New Waterways Charity (NWC).

The Government recognise the importance of the rights of those who live on and use the inland waterways which will transfer to the NWC. Ultimately, it would be for a court to determine the application of, and compliance with, the Human Rights Act 1998 in relation to any action taken by the NWC.

Further public consultation on the NWC, in the context of the transfer order, will take place in the autumn.

British Waterways Board: Freedom of Information

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will put in place measures to ensure that British Waterways will continue to be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 following any transfer to charitable status; and if she will make a statement. [64008]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognises the importance of making appropriate provision for access to information from public bodies and those outside the public sector with public functions. With this in mind, we are considering the principles involved in the transfer of functions to the New Waterways Charity (NWC), and will be discussing this in due course with the transition trustees.

Further public consultation on the NWC, in the context of the transfer order, will take place in the autumn.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response she has made to the recommendation in the Committee on Climate Change's Meeting Carbon Budgets—3rd Progress Report to Parliament to consider options for further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from agriculture beyond that in the current industry action plan to meet the targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions in the next decade. [64531]

Richard Benyon: The Government welcomes the Committee on Climate Change's 3rd Annual Progress Report, published on 30 June. The Government will carefully consider the recommendations set out in the report and will formally respond later this year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from using better soil management techniques to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the industry's action plan; [64532]

(2) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from using better nutrient management techniques to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan; [64552]

(3) what proposals her Department has to encourage the selection of crop varieties by farmers which increase the rate of abatement from nitrous oxide emissions by 2020; [64537]

(4) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from manure management to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan; [64553]

(5) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from livestock feed to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan; [64555]

(6) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from livestock breeding to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan; [64556]

(7) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from using more nitrogen efficient plants to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan; [64557]

(8) what measures she plans to adopt to increase the potential of further greenhouse gas emissions abatement from using nitrification inhibitors to meet the targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the next decade beyond those set out in the agriculture industry's action plan. [64558]

Richard Benyon: The Government, in partnership with the devolved Administrations, have invested £12.6 million over a four and half year period to improve the Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Inventory R and D Platform. Through a series of projects, covering data management and modelling and methane and nitrous oxide emissions, this research will strengthen our understanding of emissions produced on farm and better capture the positive actions that farmers are currently taking. This platform forms part of a wider programme of R and D into reducing GHG emissions from agriculture.

This is an extensive programme of research that looks at specific techniques, such as improved animal feed, livestock breed, crop varieties, etc, that will reduce on farm emissions. Details of all R and D projects commissioned by DEFRA can be accessed through the Department's website.

Coastal Areas: Public Footpaths

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 491W, on coastal areas: public footpaths, when she expects to discuss with Natural England its priorities and timetable for the implementation of the coastal access provisions beyond the initial coastal stretches set out in March 2011. [64338]

Richard Benyon: We have announced our plans to implement coastal access at Weymouth and in five lead areas. My officials are reviewing with Natural England the possible next steps for coastal access, following any lessons learnt from the current implementation and in the light of available resources.

Coastal Erosion: East Sussex

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions her Department has had on coastal erosion between Brighton and Peacehaven; [65680]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to prevent erosion of the *(a)* coastline and *(b)* A259 coastal road between Brighton and Peacehaven. [65681]

Richard Benyon: Under the Coast Protection Act 1949, Brighton and Hove city council and Lewes district council are the competent operating authorities with permissive powers to undertake coastal erosion management work for the coastline between Brighton and Peacehaven.

The Environment Agency provides the strategic coastal overview on behalf of DEFRA. It assesses all risk, prioritises risk management programmes, and allocates and manages funding for work programmes.

The recently reviewed Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) includes the Brighton to Peacehaven frontage. For the majority of both the frontage and the A259, the SMP recommends a policy of "holding the line" of the toe of the cliff. For part of the frontage at Telscombe cliffs, which includes a smaller section of the A259 and currently has no defences, there is a policy of "no active intervention".

The forthcoming Newhaven Harbour to Brighton Marina Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy will develop the SMP policy further and identify options for managing the coastline for the next 100 years. This will include a detailed assessment of the likely costs involved, including the likelihood of central Government funding in accordance with the latest DEFRA flood and coastal resilience partnership funding policy.

This strategy is to be led by Lewes district council, and a request for flood defence grant in aid of £325,000 has been submitted in this year's Medium Term Plan for funding to begin in 2012-13.

Crops: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regional research hubs for groupings of crops will be supported by her Department in each of the next four financial years. [64814]

Mr Paice: Crop research is undertaken within research institutes and university departments across the UK. DEFRA does not fund regional research hubs for groupings of crops. There are no plans to establish such hubs.

Departmental Consultants

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on consultants as part of the National Ecosystems Assessment. [65054]

Richard Benyon: The National Ecosystem Assessment was not commissioned as a consultancy, but as a scientific research project co-ordinated by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. DEFRA's contribution to the project was £674,820. The funding consortium included all of the devolved Administrations as well as the Natural Environment Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. The study was a major project involving over 500 economists and scientists, many of whom gave their knowledge and time for free. The Natural Environment White Paper includes a commitment to build on the National Ecosystem Assessment by supporting a further phase of research, but financial commitments have not been finalised.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department (a) has spent and (b) plans to spend on consultants as part of the England Biodiversity Strategy. [65055]

Richard Benyon: No consultancy costs were incurred directly in developing our new England Biodiversity Strategy (2011-20), which is due to be published shortly.

We do not have quantified plans for overall future consultancy costs associated with implementing this wide-ranging 10-year strategy. There will occasionally be some consultancy spend where this is necessary to provide the required expertise or independence of view, for example, in relation to the Nature Improvement Area competition panel.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on external consultants as part of the waste review. [65056]

Richard Benyon: No external consultants were employed to work on the Government's Review of Waste Policy in England.

Dogs: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has assessed the merits of extending the provisions of the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 to regulate the sale of dogs online. [62118]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 largely amended the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and does not exclude businesses that breed dogs and sell them over the internet, as long as such businesses are based in Great Britain.

Eggs: Labelling

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with representatives of the egg industry the introduction of a labelling scheme to indicate the production method of multi-ingredient food products containing eggs. [66198]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers are happy to discuss industry initiatives. While we have no plans to introduce a Government-led labelling scheme to indicate the production method of multi-ingredient food products containing eggs, such information can already be provided on a voluntary basis so long as it is not misleading to consumers.

Farmers: Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has issued any advice to farmers on the generation of low-carbon energy on their land. [65458]

Mr Paice: Farmers can access free telephone and web advice on low carbon energy generation and energy efficiency from the Carbon Trust, which is funded by Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The Government are keen for farm businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the uptake of low-carbon and energy efficient equipment. We are therefore working closely with DECC, which leads on energy policy, to ensure that its policies and advice include farm businesses.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals her Department has to *(a)* improve energy efficiency, *(b)* encourage greater uptake of renewable energy sources by farmers and *(c)* reduce land use change emissions from agriculture to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in 2020. [64538]

Mr Paice: Energy efficiency is a key focus of the Government's energy and climate change strategy. The Government are also keen for farm businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the uptake of low-carbon and energy efficient equipment. We are working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which leads on energy policy, to ensure that its policies include farm businesses.

A wide range of policies are in place or under development, as set out in the Carbon Plan published in March. These include major initiatives such as the forthcoming Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation, and the existing Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. DEFRA's contributions to improving energy efficiency cover a range of policy areas including product standards, corporate carbon reporting, water efficiency, and resource efficiency.

Agri-environment schemes have the potential, either through previous, current or new land management practice to deliver greenhouse gas reductions of 3.46 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalents per year.

Fertilisers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has plans to require the collection of data on the impact of soil testing measures on the use of fertiliser. [64536]

Richard Benyon: We do not have plans to collect such data although DEFRA is committed to helping make available the best advice on the frequency of soil sampling and analysis as part of good nutrient management.

We welcome the work that industry is doing including the compilation of soil test data across England and Wales, and in providing advice and promoting nutrient management planning.

Fertilisers: Grasslands

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of *(a)* the extent of fertiliser use on grassland areas in England and *(b)* its effects on the density of nitrous oxide emissions in each of the last four years. [64529]

Mr Paice: Volatility in fertiliser prices over recent years has been a significant influence on year on year usage levels. The following table shows overall[1] nitrogen fertiliser use on grassland in England and to better illustrate the longer term trend, data for 2004 to 2010 are shown. These figures relate to manufactured fertiliser only and do not include organic manures.

Overall nitrogen fertiliser use on grassland (kg per hectare)

	Total nitrogen
2004	73
2005	69
2006	67
2007	61
2008	52
2009	54
2010	61

The downward trend in fertiliser application on grassland has been one of the main drivers of the reduction in nitrous oxide emissions from UK agriculture which have fallen from 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalent in 2004 to 27.6 million tonnes CO_2 equivalent in 2007 and 27.4 million tonnes in 2009. 2010 data are not yet available.

[1] The overall application rate is defined as the total quantity of nutrient used, in kilograms (kg), divided by the total extent of crop area, in hectares (including any areas without application of the nutrient).

Sources:

The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice

DECC, UK Climate Change Statistics

Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Totnes (Dr Wollaston) of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on food, what steps she plans to take to ensure that food procured by the public sector meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. [64439]

Mr Paice: We want to improve standards of public food procurement where this can be achieved without increasing the overall costs. This means closely assessing the costs and benefits of various options for the procurement of food that is healthy, sustainable and ethically sourced. Our proposals have been submitted to external review to make sure we get this right and we have published guidance for buyers alongside the standards.

We are working with major local authority buying organisations in the PR05 group to encourage the voluntary inclusion of Government Buying Standards into national food and catering procurement frameworks, which will enable public sector bodies to achieve cost savings without compromising on quality or sustainability.

In addition, DEFRA is developing training for catering managers and procurers in the public sector on efficient and sustainable food procurement based around the Government Buying Standards and using examples of best practice from around the country.

We believe that local people are best placed to decide what is best in their communities. Greater transparency across Government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account. Local government are required to publish details of contracts over £500, and NHS bodies are required to publish contracts over £10,000.

Food: Origin Marking

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department made on the introduction of the EU's Country of Origin labelling proposals. [65266]

Mr Paice: We have been pressing for improved origin information in the current EU negotiations on a new regulation on the provision of food information to consumers. The European Parliament agreed a compromise proposal on 6 July. This is expected to be formally adopted by the Council by the end of the year.

For origin labelling, this would mean:

Fresh and frozen meat would have to be labelled with its origin;

Where origin claims are made concerning the origin of a food, the origin of the main ingredients will have to be given if these are different to the claim.

The Commission is also charged with looking at extending the rules to other foods such as meat as an ingredient, milk and dairy products. It is currently expected that the regulation will be published by early 2012.

Foxes: Disease Control

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on measures to address the spread of alveolar echinococcosis in the fox population; and what discussions she has had with the devolved Administrations on the matter. [65211]

Mr Paice: Ongoing surveillance of wild foxes has demonstrated that the fox population in the UK remains free of echinococcus multilocularis. Similarly, no domestic cases of human infection by the tapeworm E. multilocularis have been found. The UK's geographic separation from continental Europe essentially eliminates the risk of the introduction of E. multilocularis through the cross-border movement of wild animals to a negligible level.

A qualitative assessment of the risk of importing the tapeworm E. multilocularis via the movement of pet animals to the UK has been carried out by DEFRA. Exposure of a pet to infection depends on the country visited and whether the pet has ingested any infected rodents. Alveolar echinococcosis is restricted to the northern hemisphere and has become more of a problem in some urban fox populations. The risk is currently mitigated by a requirement to treat all cats and dogs with Praziquantel (certified by a vet in the pet passport or third country official veterinary certificate) before entering the UK.

We recognise that without our current treatment regime there would be an increased risk of disease introduction and the disease could become established in the UK rodent or fox population. The European Commission has given a strong indication that it will shortly come forward with proposals that would enable the UK and other tapeworm free countries to retain tapeworm controls with a treatment window of one-five days.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, recently wrote to the devolved Administrations, updating them on the changes to the pet movement controls, including the steps being taken to retain controls on tapeworm. DEFRA officials hold regular discussions with counterparts in the devolved Administrations on these issues.

Horticulture

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to support the gardening industry through research and development of ornamental horticulture. [64223]

Mr Paice: DEFRA continues to fund research on horticulture through its research and development (R and D) programmes on sustainable farming systems, agriculture and climate change, and sustainable water management. Research into areas such as crop protection, nutrient management, control of pests and diseases, water use and growing media are generally applicable to a wide range of ornamental and food crops. In addition, the industry supports R and D through its DEFRA sponsored levy body, the Horticultural Development Corporation, a part of the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board.

Marine Conservation Zones

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the statutory nature conservation bodies have made towards the objective of designating an ecologically-coherent network of marine protected areas by 2012. [63903]

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to designate a management regime for species and habitats that are not features of conservation importance to ensure their protection within a marine conservation zone; [64004]

(2) by what means marine conservation zones will protect species and habitats listed in the Annex to the Habitats Directive which are found at nationally rather than internationally important thresholds; [64005]

(3) what assessment she has made of the management provisions resources required to ensure that requirements for site objectives and requirements for an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas are fulfilled; [64006]

(4) whether marine conservation zones may be designated in respect of species and habitats which do not constitute features of conservation importance. [64007]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to delivering on its vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. Creating an ecologically-coherent network of marine protected areas (MPAs), which includes marine conservation zones (MCZs), is central to conserving marine biodiversity and will contribute to the wider health of our marine ecosystem.

The four stakeholder-led regional projects have made good progress and presented their draft final recommendations for prospective MCZ sites, including identifying conservation objectives for most sites, at the beginning of June. Taking account of comments from the MPA Science Advisory Panel they will present their final site recommendations and conservation objectives at the end of August.

The MCZ site recommendations, the formal advice from the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, and the impact assessments will be sent to Ministers in January 2012. We will give these and the scientific and economic evidence and stakeholders' views careful consideration, before making a decision on sites to take forward to public consultation in early summer 2012 with a view to designation by end the end of 2012.

The Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies' Ecological Network Guidance to the regional projects describes the requirements for an ecologically coherent network, including those habitats and species of conservation importance considered to be most appropriately protected using MCZs. The guidance is available on Natural England's website. For habitats and species requiring the requiring the establishment of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) in accordance with the EC habitats and birds directives, it is considered that these European sites will provide the requisite contribution to the network.

MCZs should only be proposed for habitats and species that are protected under the EC habitats and wild birds directives in exceptional circumstances, and where they are essential to meet the ecological coherence objectives of the wider MPA network, as our guidance makes clear.

When selecting MCZs for habitats and species of conservation importance, particular attention is given to areas of additional ecological importance. These include areas that support particular ecological processes, are important for particular life stages or behaviours of any species, are highly productive or support high biodiversity. Spatial protection mechanisms are not, in isolation, the most effective way of protecting highly mobile species. Protecting some habitats important to mobile species can aid their conservation, as part of wider protection measures that can be applied across their range. We will continue to develop bespoke management measures for vulnerable mobile species, such as acoustic deterrents to reduce dolphin bycatch and fisheries protection for endangered sharks. For birds the SPAs, combined with other sector-wide initiatives (for example under the EU Seabird Plan of Action), will be the primary methods for protection. If areas important to habitats or species not specified in the Ecological Network Guidance are identified, the evidence should be provided and we will consider their protection through MCZs.

The regional projects are working with stakeholders to identify possible management measures, such as byelaws or voluntary agreements that may be needed. Their likely social and economic effects will be assessed in an impact assessment. This will include the potential resources required for management provisions: for example the potential cost to the Marine Management Organisation and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities of putting byelaws in place.

Nitrates

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the inclusion of all regions of England within nitrate vulnerable zones under the EU Nitrates Directive. [64541]

Richard Benyon: We expect to consult on a range of proposals and the indicative new nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) boundaries in the autumn. Final decisions will depend on a range of factors, including the cost implications and the outcome of the consultation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the impact on greenhouse gas emissions abatement of the inclusion of all English regions within nitrate vulnerable zones under the EU Nitrates Directive. [64542]

Richard Benyon: The Department is currently funding a research project that is looking at the impact on greenhouse gas emissions from changes to manure management practices as a result of the Nitrates Action Programme. The project will evaluate the effects of the implementation of several possible Action Programme measures, including designating the whole of England as a single nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Evidence from this and other research projects will assist Ministers in making their final decisions on the designation of nitrate vulnerable zones in England under the EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) due in 2012. This work is part of an integrated approach to tackling diffuse pollution from agriculture.

A consultation document on the review of the NVZ designations in England is due to be published this autumn. This will provide further information on the option of a whole territory approach proposal.

Producer Responsibility

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with industry representatives on producer responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [64358]

Richard Benyon: Ministers and officials engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including on producer responsibility, as part of the Government's Review of Waste Policy in England, which was published in June. The stakeholders included representatives from central and local government, environmental groups, businesses throughout the supply chain, the waste management industry and civil society organisations.

The Review concluded that while statutory producer responsibility can be an influential driver for change, better environmental outcomes can in many circumstances be delivered in a less burdensome way through a voluntary approach. DEFRA is now working with a range of businesses to explore the potential for new responsibility deals in a number of different sectors.

Rabbits: EU Law

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether regulation of rabbit farming in the UK is affected by EU legislation; what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* standards and *(b)* reputation of rabbit farming in (i) the UK and (ii) the EU; and if she will make a statement. [63939]

Mr Paice: Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes sets out a general framework for the protection of all farmed animals, but there is no specific provision for rabbits.

However, in 2005, the European Food Safety Authority produced a report describing housing and husbandry systems and their impact on the health and welfare of farmed domestic rabbits. This report fed into the Council of Europe's draft recommendations concerning the minimum standards for farmed rabbits which are still under negotiation.

The UK has a relatively small rabbit farming industry compared to some EU member states. The keeping of commercially farmed rabbits is adequately provided for by way of the provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007 which contains a specific schedule for rabbits. In addition, DEFRA has a code for rabbits which provides good husbandry advice including recommendations for housing, feed, water and space allowances which should be regarded as absolute minimum.

Reservoirs

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* number of reservoirs was in England in (i) 1989 and (ii) 2010. [65180]

Richard Benyon: At the end of 2010 there were 1,909 reservoirs classed as "large raised reservoirs", based on the definition laid down in the Reservoirs Act 1975. These had a combined maximum capacity of 2,264,376,534 cubic metres. Figures for 1989 are not available. Records of reservoirs outside the "large raised reservoir" category are not held centrally.

Shooting Seasons

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the arrangements to set the dates of the shooting seasons to provide for the extension of a season in cases where severe weather has prevented shooting. [65167]

Mr Paice: The close season for birds listed on Schedule 1 Part 2 and Schedule 2 Part 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is set to avoid birds being shot at a time when this could interfere with breeding. Shooting during this period would likely have an impact on the conservation status of these species.

Following a severe winter, the close season for listed species is particularly important in order to ensure wild birds are able to recover to breeding condition, move between wintering and breeding grounds, and successfully breed. Therefore, there are no plans in England to extend the shooting season in years where severe weather has resulted in the voluntary or statutory suspension of shooting.

Squirrels

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of introducing a bounty for grey squirrels to reduce the population of that species. [65157]

Richard Benyon: It has sometimes been suggested that a restoration of the bounty scheme operated by the Government in the 1950s could help to eradicate grey squirrels or at least make a serious impact on numbers. The scheme made no significant impact on natural fluctuations in numbers, however, and was abandoned as ineffective. Populations of grey squirrels actually rose during most of the scheme's lifetime. Therefore, we have no plans to reintroduce a bounty scheme for grey squirrels.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the imprisonment of Said Musa. [65161]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

We understand Mr Musa was released from custody in February 2011. During his detention we worked with international partners to raise Mr Musa's case with the Afghan Government. The UK Attorney-General also raised this case with the Afghan Attorney-General, when he visited Afghanistan in January.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will request the Government of Afghanistan to release from prison all those imprisoned for offences related to their conversion from Islam. [65162]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

We are not aware of any current cases in Afghanistan of individuals imprisoned for offences relating to conversion from Islam.

We continue to work closely with international partners to monitor the situation of Afghan Christians, and to raise this issue with the Afghan Government when appropriate.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider investing some of the £1.5 billion retained by his Department for allocation in the later years of the comprehensive spending review period in pro-poor agricultural growth through his Department's bilateral programmes for the purposes of mitigating the likelihood of future food security crises in the developing world. [65584]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: At least 16 of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes are currently planning programmes which will deliver improvements in the food security and nutritional status of poor people in the countries concerned. DFID also provides significant support for food security through our investments in agricultural research and our contributions to the work of relevant multilateral institutions such as the World Food Programme. Over the next four years, DFID's support will stop 10 million more children going hungry and ensure anther four million people have enough food throughout the year.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has further allocation decisions to make in the later years of the current spending review period. These decisions will be informed by the need to meet the conditions of DFID's spending review settlement and to ensure that the Department's business plan objectives are delivered.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on investing in agricultural growth through bilateral programmes for the purposes of mitigating the likelihood of a future food security crisis in the developing world. [65736]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Currently, at least 10 of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes and our regional programmes in Africa and Asia are planning to provide support for agricultural sector development. In total, at least 16 country programmes are planning programmes which will deliver improvements in the food security and nutritional status of poor people in the countries concerned. DFID also provides significant support for improvement in global food security through our investment in agricultural research and our contributions to the work of relevant multilateral institutions such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will allocate a proportion of the £1.5 billion retained for allocation in the later years of the comprehensive spending review period to pro-poor agricultural growth to mitigate the likelihood of future food security crises. [65782]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: At least 16 of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes are currently planning programmes which will deliver improvements in the food security and nutritional status of poor people in the countries concerned. DFID also provides significant support for food security through our investments in agricultural research and our contributions to the work of relevant multilateral institutions such as the World Food Programme. Over the next four years, DFID's support will stop 10 million more children going hungry and ensure anther 4 million people have enough food throughout the year.

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Developing Countries: Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote improved diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in developing countries. [65650]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID) focus is on improving the health of the poor through support to Governments and other organisations to deliver health services. We believe that by strengthening health services so that they are better able to diagnose and treat all major causes of ill health including diabetes we will improve health outcomes.

Developing Countries: Marriage

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of early and forced marriage in developing countries. [64151]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Investing in adolescent girls, including delaying the age of marriage and first pregnancy, is a central part of DFID's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women.

In Ethiopia, DFID is taking to scale a successful pilot, supported by the Nike Foundation. The scaled up programme will delay marriage for 220,000 girls in two specific locations, with the vision to expand to the entire Amhara region—which has the highest rate of child marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa.

DFID is also supporting the Population Council's Transitions to Adulthood programme, which is addressing child marriage. The programme works with communities in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Nigeria, to foster an environment that is supportive of later marriage. The programme offers families the resources and options they need to defer marriage, while also supporting married girls by addressing the isolation and disempowerment that characterizes their situation.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to meet the commitment in the Framework for Results on improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health to raise the average age at which girls first marry and conceive. [64152]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Framework for Results recognises the risks associated with adolescent pregnancy and highlights the importance of ensuring that adolescents have control over their fertility. Adolescent pregnancy is not only dangerous for the health of the mother and the child but also has other consequences, such as the mother dropping out of school and damaging her future opportunities to participate in the labour market. It can also have an adverse affect on their status as well as on the children and their wider communities.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working in a number of countries such as Rwanda, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Kenya to develop innovative new approaches designed to help girls increase the age of first marriage, delay the age of first birth, reduce their overall fertility rate and ensure that they can manage their reproductive health during adolescence and beyond. DFID is also supporting long-term research on how to improve access to family planning for adolescent girls.

Human Resources for Health Programme

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methodology his Department used to estimate that 25 per cent. of its health funding supports human resources for health. [65783]

Mr O'Brien: The estimate that 25% of the Department for International Development's (DFID) health funding supports human resources for health (HRH) was drawn from data analysis undertaken for DFID's 2009 Health Portfolio Review. A desk-based analysis of Overseas Development Assistance in the 2008-09 financial year was used to quantify the volume and percentage of DFID spending on "aid to health" that was committed to HRH spending across all countries. In addition, an in-depth review of HRH programming in four countries and a survey of HRH programming across 12 countries were used to test the assumptions made in the desk-based analysis.

The Health Portfolio Review can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Health-portfolio-review-2009/

Horn of Africa: Agriculture

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase long-term resilience in the national agricultural systems of the countries of the Horn of Africa for the purposes of reducing the effects of potential future food crises. [65585]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided a £10 million grant to the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) to boost agricultural productivity and improve resilience to food insecurity in Africa. CAADP is working with the national agricultural systems in Ethiopia and Kenya, among other African countries, to define strategies for halving hunger and achieving increases of 6% in agricultural growth each year through policy reform and better investment. For example latest figures we have from 2009 show that annual agricultural growth rates were 6% in Ethiopia and 3% in Kenya.

DFID also provides resilience through country led programmes in Africa. In Ethiopia we support the Productive Safety Net Programme which provides cash and food transfers to around 8 million vulnerable people, while in Kenya we are supporting more than 60,000 of the most vulnerable households by providing regular cash payments through our Hunger Safety Net Programme.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding for climate change adaption and mitigation finance his Department has provided to smallholder farmers in the Horn of Africa in *(a)* absolute amounts and *(b)* as a proportion of overall climate change funding in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [65586]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Our central recording systems do not capture such detail for project expenditure. The UK Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the period 2010-12, to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. 50% of this will help developing countries adapt to climate change, a significant share of which is designed to benefit smallholder farmers.

The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to climate change. For example, DFID funded researchers in Ethiopia are working with farmers to make better decisions in the face of risks from drought. In Kenya DFID supports research on improved early warning so that farmers can adjust their cropping strategies to increase production.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to develop long-term resilience into the national agricultural systems of countries in the Horn of Africa. [65734]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided a £10 million grant to the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to boost agricultural productivity and improve resilience to food insecurity in Africa. CAADP is working with the national agricultural systems in Ethiopia and Kenya, among other African countries, to define strategies for halving hunger and achieving increases of 6% in agricultural growth each year through policy reform and better investment. For example latest figures we have from 2009 show that annual agricultural growth rates where 6% in Ethiopia and 3% in Kenya.

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Horn of Africa: Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation finance his Department has provided to smallholder farmers in the Horn of Africa in each of the last four financial years *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of overall funding provided by his Department for climate change mitigation; and how much funding he plans to allocate for such purposes in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [65735]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Our central recording systems do not capture such detail for project expenditure. The UK Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the period 2010-12, to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. 50% of this will help developing countries adapt to climate change, a significant share of which is designed to benefit smallholder farmers.

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Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of its funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation his Department has provided to small holder farmers in the Horn of Africa in the latest period for which figures are available. [65781]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Our central recording systems do not capture such detail for project expenditure. The UK Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the period 2010-12, to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. 50% of this will help developing countries adapt to climate change, a significant share of which is designed to benefit smallholder farmers.

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Horn of Africa: Human Rights

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation he is undertaking on a joint response to the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. [66221]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The British Government are in regular contact with UK non-government organisation (NGOs) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to discuss joint working and co-ordination in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. I anticipate an official announcement on humanitarian funding in response to the crisis in Somalia over the coming days.

Overseas Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will reconsider his decision to end funding to the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies; [66222]

(2) what pre-qualification mechanism his Department will use when allocating funding to non-governmental organisations during the first 72 hours of a humanitarian crisis; [66223]

(3) what plans his Department has to help the work of *(a)* UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and *(b)* NGO consortia in responding to humanitarian disasters. [66224]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies (CBHA) funding will finish as planned in April 2012.

As a result of the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR) the Government have decided to establish two new funding mechanisms for non-governmental organisations (NGOs): a new facility that will enable prequalified NGOs and charities to respond to crises within the first 72 hours; and, a new mechanism to support the strongest performing British NGOs to improve timeliness and quality of responses to humanitarian crises.

For both mechanisms we would welcome applications by NGO consortia.

The prequalification process will involve compliance with a series of eligibility and suitability criteria, and demonstration of past results. Together these will determine if the organisation in question has the correct policy approach and experience to provide the most effective and value for money response. Funding decisions for prequalified NGOs will be based on need and will depend on the nature of the emergency.

We will also increase our policy dialogue with NGOs and other civil society groups, including diaspora groups. Dialogue will focus on United Nations (UN) reform and on improving humanitarian response more generally. We will actively support efforts by NGOs themselves to resolve the problems posed by their multiplicity in humanitarian emergencies, particularly NGO co-ordination and accreditation.

Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to *(a)* prevent the spread of tuberculosis, *(b)* prevent deaths from tuberculosis and *(c)* track tuberculosis patients living (i) with and (ii) without HIV. [65778]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government highlighted their commitment to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis (TB) deaths by 2015 in 'UK aid: Changing lives delivering results'. The recently launched 'Towards zero infections; the UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world' outlines how the UK will contribute to the UNAIDS and Stop TB Partnership goal of reducing HIV-related TB among people living with HIV by 50% by 2015. This will be done through UK multilateral and bilateral support to help deliver the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis 2011-15. We work with our partners, particularly UNAIDS, the World Health Organisation and affected countries, to track global progress on HIV and TB.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department monitors the number of tuberculosis deaths among people *(a)* with and *(b)* without HIV. [65779]

Mr O'Brien: The UK works with its partners, particularly UNAIDS, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and affected countries, to track global progress on HIV and TB. WHO and UNAIDS have the mandate to monitor global progress on reducing deaths and illness from TB and TB-HIV and WHO reports on global tuberculosis control annually.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to provide assistance to the UNAIDS and Stop TB partnership's goal of reducing tuberculosis deaths of people with HIV. [65780]

Mr O'Brien: In 'Towards zero infections: The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing World' the UK Government stated that the UK will contribute to the UNAIDS and Stop TB Partnership's goal of reducing HIV-related TB among people living with HIV by 50% by 2015. We also made clear that the UK will maintain our funding to UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation and increase our contribution to the Global Fund to Fights AIDS, TB and malaria pending implementation of crucial reforms, as outlined in the multilateral aid review.

The UK Government committed £4.5 million over three years, (2008-11) to the Stop TB Partnership to support the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB whose goal is to halve deaths due to tuberculosis by 2015. We are in discussions with the Stop TB Partnership on a new funding cycle.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on the National Drug Control Strategy Programme in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [66255]

Alistair Burt: The UK supports the implementation of the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) in a number of areas including support for law enforcement agencies, targeting of poppy eradication, promoting economic development and alternative livelihoods, and building the capacity of central and provincial government departments.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office funding for this support currently comes from two sources: Conflict Pool (tri-departmentally funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence); and the Strategic Programme Fund.

Total spend on support to the implementation of the NDCS from both these sources for the financial year 2010-11 was £28.1 million.

Andrew Coulson

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66167]

Mr Lidington: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-338.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the statement by the Minister for the Middle East on 22 June 2011, what representations he has made to the Bahraini authorities on the sentencing of the 21 Bahraini civilians. [65384]

Alistair Burt: We have raised our concerns about the arrests of protestors and medical staff, including when my right hon. Friend the the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, met the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 25 May 2011. Our outgoing ambassador to Bahrain has also raised our concerns over the conduct of the trials with the Government of Bahrain, at the highest level. On 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 957-61, the Secretary of State made a statement to the House of Commons expressing the UK's concerns about the suspension and investigation of political parties, the imprisonment of leading moderate politicians, the alleged mistreatment of detainees and the trial of members of the medical profession before tribunals containing a military judge.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the statement by the Minister for the Middle East on 22 June 2011, what reports he has received on the sentence given to Abdulhadi Al Khawaja; and if he will make a statement. [65386]

Alistair Burt: I am aware of the sentence received by Mr Al Khawaja, and am deeply concerned by the nature of the charges brought against him and the 20 other political figures. We continue to raise our concerns over the conduct of the trials. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a statement to the House of Commons on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 957-61, expressing the UK's concerns about the suspension and investigation of political parties, the imprisonment of leading moderate politicians, the alleged mistreatment of detainees and the trial of members of the medical profession before tribunals containing a military judge. The Foreign Secretary also raised our concerns about the arrests of protestors and medical staff when he met the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 25 May 2011. Our outgoing ambassador to Bahrain has also raised our concerns at the highest level with the Government of Bahrain.

We repeatedly urge the Bahrainis that due process should be carefully and transparently followed in the ongoing trials. In this context, we welcome the Government of Bahrain's decision to hold the remaining trials in civilian courts.

Brahmaputra River: Hydroelectric Power

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Chinese Government on its hydroelectric and diversionary plans for the Brahmaputra river. [64330]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British embassy in Beijing has discussed this issue with Chinese academics and with the Indian embassy in Beijing. But to date we have not had any direct discussions with the Chinese Government on their hydroelectric and diversionary plans for the Brahmaputra river.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds his Department has set aside to support the families of British citizens killed abroad. [64226]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are finalising arrangements to enhance our relationship with the Victim Support National Homicide Service by providing funding of up to £100,000 per year for financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 to enable them to commission services on behalf of bereaved families in England and Wales when a British national dies as a result of murder, manslaughter or infanticide abroad.

Ministerial Meetings

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66165]

Mr Lidington: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-338.

Burma: Politics and Government

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the regime in Burma to *(a)* cease threats to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy and *(b)* guarantee her safe and free movement around the country. [66265]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In response to veiled threats in the Burmese state media towards the National League for Democracy and Aung San Suu Kyi, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, issued a statement on 30 June. He reminded the Burmese authorities that Aung San Suu Kyi should be able to travel freely without risk to her personal safety and that the authorities' stance was at odds with their message on dialogue and reconciliation. He reminded the Burmese Government that the safety and security of all Burma's people is their responsibility. Foreign and Commonwealth officials raised this issue with the Burmese ambassador on 8 July. Our embassy in Rangoon continues to monitor the situation and remains in close touch with Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to strengthen working relationships between officials in his Department and those in the Department for International Development. [64918]

Mr Hague: Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and in the Department for International Development (DFID) work closely together, both in London and across our respective networks overseas. The National Security Council process has embedded joint working at ministerial and official level in London. Overseas, the FCO and DFID are co-located in two thirds of those countries where DFID is present. We are promoting shared services, joint working and joint programming, including on joint conflict-related activity in the Peacekeeping and Conflict Pool tri-departmental (FCO-DFID-MOD) funding mechanisms.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what statistical data his Department has ceased to collect in the 12 months; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63667]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost because this is devolved to our missions overseas and to individual directorates and strategic programmes within the UK.

Emergency Disaster Reserve

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the Emergency Disaster Reserve system in supporting evacuation operations. [64920]

Mr Hague: The adequacy of the Emergency Disaster Reserve system was considered as part of the Review of Consular Evacuation Procedures that I instructed the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to carry out on 23 February 2011. A copy of the review was placed in the House on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 74WS. I have given instructions that its recommendations should be implemented in full by 31 December 2011.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed the adequacy of the Emergency Disaster Reserve system with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [64921]

Mr Hague: I and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers regularly discuss our responses to consular crises including the Emergency Disaster Reserve system with Ministers from Her Majesty's Treasury including my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

India: Prisoners

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the case of Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar during his meeting with his Indian counterpart on 30 June 2011. [65245]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, did not discuss Mr Bhullar's case with Indian Foreign Minster Krishna when they met on 30 June. I wrote to the Indian high commissioner on 20 June, reiterating the UK Government's strong opposition to the death penalty and urging the Government of India to reconsider Mr Bhullar's sentence. I have also raised our concerns with Indian Foreign Secretary Rao on 28 June, and with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur on 5 July. We continue to urge the Government of India to establish a formal moratorium as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty in India.

Indonesia: Minority Groups

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Government of Indonesia on the protection of minority communities such as the Ahmadiyya community in that country. [65487]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have strong relations with the Government of Indonesia and this includes raising any issues of concern, including freedom of religion, both bilaterally and through the European Union (EU).

Our ambassador raised freedom of religion concerns with the Indonesian Attorney-General on 21 April 2011. On 5 May 2011, the EU in Jakarta held a meeting for EU partners with members of the Ahmadiyya community that were subjected to a violent attack in February 2011.

Tackling discrimination and protecting minority communities was also discussed with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels on 9 March 2011.

Along with our EU partners, we continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia and to press the authorities to ensure respect for the rights of all religious minorities.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Iranian government on the *(a)* recent raids on the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education and *(b)* detention of 11 of its staff and faculty members. [66249]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by Iranian action to shut down the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education. We raised this issue with the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires on 25 May 2011 making clear that we wanted persecution of the Baha'is to cease. We will continue to call on Iran to respect the full and equal rights of its people regardless of their faith or ethnicity in line with its international obligations.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what international structures his Department is participating to undertake post-conflict planning for Libya. [60076]

Mr Hague: Post-conflict stabilisation in Libya must be owned by the Libyan people, with the UN co-ordinating international support. The UN will lead on post-conflict planning and the UK is in close contact with them both in London and through our network of Posts. As a member of the UN Security Council, the EU, NATO and the Libya Contact Group, the UK is helping to shape the international effort in post-conflict Libya.

The International Stabilisation Response Team, which recently visited Benghazi to identify stabilisation challenges facing the Libyan people, will help identify areas where the international community can support Libya during the transition period. The UK participated in this Team, along with Italy, Australia, Denmark, the US and Turkey.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on recognition of a Palestinian state. [66266]

Alistair Burt: The unprecedented changes of the Arab spring make progress on the peace process more urgent than ever. President Obama has called for the parties to return to the table for negotiations based on 1967 borders with agreed swaps and security arrangements that protect Israel and respect Palestinian sovereignty. The UK backs this call.

We urge all parties to seize this moment of opportunity and return as soon as possible to direct negotiations. As I told all sides during my visit to the region on 27 June-1 July, we do not know if there will be a resolution in September, or what it will look like—so we have not made any decisions. Instead we urge both sides to look towards the things that are necessary to get a negotiated settlement and to return to talks as soon as possible.

Gaza

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of *(a)* access for aid to and *(b)* legitimate trade with the Gaza Strip. [60225]

Mr Hague: Our top priorities in Gaza are to ensure that aid reaches those who need it, and, that, homes, schools, hospitals and other essential buildings are rebuilt. All parties to the conflict need to respect international humanitarian law and allow full and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and aid workers.

Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items was a positive step. However there has been no fundamental change in the crossings regime and economic stagnation and de-development in Gaza remain the norm. We are clear that more needs to be done, particularly to enable exports, accelerate key imports for reconstruction and ensure free movement of people.

The UK continues to press the Israeli Government, bilaterally and by working with others such as the EU, on the issue. We will be working alongside our EU partners with Israel to achieve the real changes on the ground that we are looking for. Without economic growth in Gaza, there is a risk of fostering a more broadly radicalised environment. An improved economy and a resurgence of Gaza's pragmatic business community are not only essential for the people of Gaza, but are also firmly in Israel's security interests.

We are taking practical steps to improve access to Gaza through our support to the UN Access Coordination Unit, our capacity building work with the Palestinian Authority and our work with the Office of the Quartet Representative on confidence building measures to facilitate exports from Gaza.

Yemen and Somalia: Politics and Government

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in *(a)* Yemen and *(b)* Somalia. [65686]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government remain extremely concerned about the situation in Yemen. Following the attack on President Saleh's mosque on 3 June the President is currently receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. Since President Saleh left Yemen on 4 June, the capital has experienced a welcome lull in the fierce inter-factional fighting seen in previous months. But the situation elsewhere in Yemen remains tense. The Yemeni cities of Taiz and Aden have seen continuing fierce fighting. The Yemeni Government admit that they have lost security control over five governorates. Yemeni security forces are fighting to contain attempts by Islamic militants and others to control the towns of Zinjibar and Ja'ar in Abyan governorate. Continuing conflict is exacerbating the serious humanitarian crisis that Yemen already faces.

Nonetheless, we continue to work with the Vice President and other key players in the Government and opposition to secure the political change that Yemen so badly needs. We continue to urge Vice President Hadi to engage with all sides to begin a peaceful political transition on the basis of the Gulf Co-operation Council agreement. We encourage all sides to participate in an inclusive dialogue as a way forward and to refrain from further violent clashes.

Given the unstable security environment we advise against all travel to Yemen at this time and strongly urge all British nationals to leave the country now while commercial carriers are still flying.

There is ongoing serious violence, dangerous levels of criminal activity and general internal insecurity in the southern and central regions of Somalia, and there are regular outbreaks of inter-clan violence and a high threat from terrorism throughout Somalia. We advise against all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland.

However, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has made good progress in recent months to secure Mogadishu. At present, AMISOM controls roughly 60% of Mogadishu's territory, home to around 80% of its population. I commend the bravery of AMISOM troops, and am encouraging the Transitional Federal Government to ensure that they build on these security gains to promote further stability in Mogadishu. Security and governance is also improving in Somaliland, as demonstrated by its recent successful and peaceful presidential elections.

Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean continues to be a significant threat, especially for shipping which does not take appropriate precautions or follow agreed shipping industry best practice guidelines.

South Africa: Trials

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the South African authorities on the trial of Shrien Dewani. [62225]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Shrien Dewani's case is a matter for the judicial authorities in the UK and in South Africa. We have made no representations to the South African authorities on this matter. We do however continue to follow the case closely. We have provided consular assistance to Mr Dewani and his family, and we will provide consular support to Mr Dewani should he return to South Africa.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his South African counterpart that country's involvement in the demilitarisation of the Abyei region of Sudan. [62326]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and his South African counterpart, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, discussed Sudan, including Abyei, at the recent UK-South Africa bilateral forum. There have also been ongoing discussions between British Ministers and ex-President Thabo Mbeki in his Chair of the African Union Higher Implementation Panel, which is helping to mediate between the two parties to the comprehensive peace agreement.

Syria

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the British embassy in Damascus offered to the hon. Member for Braintree during his visit to Syria in June 2011 to meet President Assad of Syria. [64836]

Mr Hague: The Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Braintree (Mr Newmark), travelled to Syria and met President Assad in a private capacity, Our embassy in Damascus did not provide any material support for his visit, but did provide him with an oral briefing to make clear the UK position on the unacceptable violence in Syria and the steps we think the Syrian regime should take to stop the violence and begin meaningful political reform.

Syria: Arms Trade

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* extent and *(b)* nature of the use of Russian-made arms by the Government of Syria in the suppression of protests; and if he will make a statement. [65885]

Alistair Burt: We have received no specific reports on the extent and nature of the use of Russian made military arms by the Government of Syria although Syria's armed forces are primarily supplied with equipment from the former Soviet Union.

The UK strongly supported the adoption of EU restrictive measures on Syria, which included an arms embargo and restrictions on the supply of equipment which could be used for internal repression. In addition, the UK supported an EU wide asset freeze and travel ban against individuals and entities responsible for, and associated with, the unacceptable violence and ongoing repression against the civilian population in Syria.

Syria: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Syrian Government on arrests and house raids in the city of Hama. [65436]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement on 5 July 2011:

> "Violent repression in Hama will only further undermine the regime's legitimacy and raise serious questions about whether it is committed to the reforms it has recently announced. No meaningful political dialogue can take place while there is a brutal military crackdown.
>
> The UK has made clear that President Assad must reform or step aside. If the regime continues to choose the path of brutal repression, pressure from the international community will only increase."

My officials in Damascus regularly raise with the Syrian Government the indiscriminate violence perpetrated against peaceful demonstrators, calling for the regime to show restraint and to respond to the legitimate demands of its people with immediate and genuine reform, not with brutal repression.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Amnesty International on the political situation in Syria. [65689]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 258W.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet with the newly-elected leader of the Tibetan Government. [65942]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are no plans to invite the Kalon Tripa to the UK. Since 1980 the UK has not accorded recognition to governments; we only accord recognition to states. So no question of our recognising the Tibetan Government in exile can arise.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has held with the Chinese government on its future relations with the Tibetan government. [65943]

Mr Jeremy Browne: While we recognise Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China, we believe long-term stability in Tibet can only be achieved through respect for human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution. We have urged the Chinese Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives as the best way to make this happen. I raised this with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Special Representative on Human Rights at the 19th Round of the UK-China human rights dialogue in January.

Yemen

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for his policy on Yemen. [65687]

Alistair Burt: Our overall objective is securing a more peaceful and stable Yemen, which presents a reduced risk to UK interests at home and in the region. Our work focuses on achieving a peaceful settlement to the current political stalemate; halting the country's decline into state failure; and working with the Yemeni authorities and others to disrupt Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's activities and operations. This is proving extremely difficult in the current volatile security climate in Yemen. Given our serious concerns about the security situation, we have drawn down our embassy to a small core team. That said, we continue to work with the Vice President and other key players in the Government and opposition to secure the political change that Yemen so badly needs. We continue to urge Vice President Hadi to engage with all sides to begin a peaceful political transition on the basis of the Gulf Co-operation Council agreement. We encourage all sides to participate in an inclusive dialogue as a way forward and to refrain from further violent clashes.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 18 July 2011

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Government Procurement Card

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level three or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the National Audit Office using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [61768]

Mr Leigh *[holding answer 29 June 2011]:* The National Audit Office uses the Government Procurement Card as it is an efficient way of processing low value transactions.

A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by the National Audit Office using Government Procurement Cards for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be placed in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, and *(c)* supplier. The National Audit Office does not receive level three or enhanced transaction entry information from our card provider.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66618]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office obtains its procurement services from the Department for Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland and therefore does not have a policy on the requirements for the provision of apprenticeships and other training by contractors.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66620]

Mr Swire: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office obtains its procurement services from the Department for Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland. It does not hold information on any apprenticeships that any contracts may have created.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66750]

Mr Swire: The Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland collate and publish annual carbon dioxide emission figures on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office. DFP are currently collating the figures for 2010-11 and will publish these on their website when available.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66567]

Mr Swire: There have been no recorded incidences of lost or stolen property from the Northern Ireland Office in the last 12 months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party; [67183]

(2) on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67588]

Mr Swire: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

Phone Hacking

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of media telephone hacking on *(a)* public figures and *(b)* victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland; [66974]

(2) whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* the Metropolitan police on possible telephone hacking of (i) public figures and (ii) victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland. [66975]

Mr Swire: Phone hacking is no more acceptable in Northern Ireland than in any other part of the UK, and illegal activities in this area will be pursued in accordance with the law.

The Metropolitan police have a considerable body of evidence to consider, and at this early stage it is not possible to make an assessment of any impact on victims in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry the Government are establishing into phone hacking and other illegal activity in the press will extend to Northern Ireland. My right hon. Friend the

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is consulting the Executive on its terms of reference.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Visits Abroad

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have for overseas visits in the next 12 months. [66146]

David Mundell: Ministerial visits overseas, and those of officials, are planned as appropriate in support of trade and other Government policy objectives.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on plans to extend the High Speed 2 project to Edinburgh and Glasgow. [66005]

David Mundell: The Government remain committed to a truly national high speed rail network which will be delivered in phases. This would deliver clear benefits to Scotland and this issue has been discussed with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on various occasions, most recently on 11 July.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with UK banks on levels of lending to small and medium-sized businesses. [66711]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer holds regular discussions with UK banks in which he discusses levels of lending to small and medium-sized businesses.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67343]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has visited *(a)* Buckinghamshire, *(b)* Surrey, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Dorset in an official capacity since May 2010. [65935]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings in all parts of the country with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has estimated the effect on tax receipts for motoring fuel of a decrease in the rate of taxation on such fuel; [66734]

(2) whether his Department assessed the possible marginal effect on *(a)* low-income (i) individuals and (ii) families, *(b)* middle-income groups and *(c)* high-income groups of his planned increase in fuel duty on 1 January 2012; [66736]

(3) whether his Department assessed the possible marginal effect on low-income *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families of any increase in (i) VAT and (ii) motoring fuel duty; and if he will publish any such assessment; [66735]

(4) how much *(a)* fuel duty and *(b)* VAT revenue accrued to the Exchequer from sales of petrol and diesel in each of the last 10 financial years; [66738]

(5) whether his Department classifies motoring fuel duty as a progressive tax. [66817]

Justine Greening: At Budget 2011, the Government published their distributional analysis of the expected impact of announced government measures on household incomes, split by direct taxes, indirect taxes and tax credits and benefits. This can be found in annex A of the Budget Report. This analysis includes the impact of the increase in VAT, and other indirect tax changes such as the one penny cut in fuel duty and the ending of the fuel escalator.

The analysis shows that, in absolute terms, the higher income and expenditure households on average contribute more in indirect tax than lower income and expenditure households, while average impacts as a proportion of income and expenditure are relatively flat across the distribution of households.

VAT-registered traders are not required to record in their VAT return the type of goods or services on which VAT has been collected. Fuel duty receipts are published in table 3 of the UK Trade Info Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

International Assistance: Afghanistan

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the increase in the UK's contribution to the International Monetary Fund authorised in the International Monetary Fund (Increase in Subscription) Order 2011 which will be allocated to the Government of Afghanistan. [67135]

Mr Hoban: The International Monetary Fund (Increase in Subscription) Order 2011 authorises the increase in the UK's quota contribution limit. This will become effective once two conditions are met. Firstly, member countries having not less than 70% of the total of quotas must have finalised domestic procedures and formally consented to the IMF in writing. Secondly, the proposed amendment of the IMF Articles of Agreement on the reform of the Executive Board must have entered into force. The G20 member countries have agreed to do this by autumn 2012.

Further detail of the 2010 quota and governance reforms can be found on the IMF website at:

http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2010/NEW110510B.htm

The UK provides loans to the IMF as a whole, rather than to any specific country or country IMF programme. The IMF will loan funds to a member country if the IMF board approves a lending programme for that country. The UK will always honour their commitments as a shareholder of the IMF.

Local Government Resources Review

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department *(a)* are working on the local government resources review and *(b)* have been seconded to the Department for Communities and Local Government to work on the review. [65962]

Justine Greening: One member of HMT staff is working on the local government resources review, and is co-located with the relevant team at the Department for Communities and Local Government. A number of other officials have been involved in advising Treasury Ministers on issues being considered through the review, as part of their wider substantive policy remits.

National Insurance Contributions

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses have participated in national insurance contribution holidays in *(a)* Washington and Sunderland West constituency, *(b)* Sunderland and *(c)* the north-east since June 2010; and what the average financial benefit to each business has been; [66003]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of extending the national insurance contribution holiday scheme to businesses that employ up to four people; and if he will make a statement. [65940]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has received five applications for the NICs holiday from new businesses in the Washington and Sunderland West constituency and 18 from new businesses in Sunderland Central. HMRC has received around 326 applications from the north-east region as a whole since the introduction of the scheme in June 2010 (up to 8 July).

Information on the average financial benefit is not yet available.

A reliable estimate of the potential costs of extending the national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday to existing micro businesses who employ up to four members of staff is not available due to data limitations.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to all existing micro businesses. However, we believe the best use of public funds is to target the NICs holiday at supporting new businesses in their first year, reducing the costs of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

Northern Rock plc

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what advice he received from UK Financial Investments regarding the disposal of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement; [66186]

(2) if he will publish the *(a)* reports, *(b)* advice and *(c)* other information that underpinned his decision on the sale of Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [66187]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments sent advice to the Chancellor of the Exchequer concluding that the best value would likely to be achieved by starting a sale process of Northern Rock plc.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the launch of the sale in his speech at Mansion House on 15 June.

On 16 June my noble Friend Lord Sassoon, the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, and I made statements to the House regarding the Chancellor of the Exchequer's decision to proceed with the sale option.

The report received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer contains commercially sensitive information and will not be published.

Overseas Trade

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 highest value trading partners with the UK were in (i) the latest period for which figures are available, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2000, (iv) 1995, (v) 1990, (vi) 1985 and (vii) 1981; and if he will make a statement. [66960]

Mr Hoban: The Office for National Statistics publishes data on the value of the United Kingdom's exports, imports and trade balance broken down by trading partner. Data are available from 1992 to 2009 in the Pink Book and accompanying databases, available online at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=1140

Public Sector Pensions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of financial liability for public sector pensions. [66537][1]

Danny Alexander: The latest estimate of the total public service pension net liability is £1,133 million, as disclosed in the unaudited summary report of the Whole of Governments Accounts for the year end 31 March 2010 published on 13 July 2011.

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 4-6MC.]*

Tax Allowances Pensions

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of annual tax relief on pension contributions which accrues to individuals with an annual income of *(a)* between £0 and £19,999, *(b)* between £20,000 and £44,999, *(c)* between £45,000 and £74,999, *(d)* between £75,000 and £99,999, *(e)* between £100,000 and £149,999, *(f)* over £150,000; and if he will make a statement. [61092]

Mr Hoban: The estimated total cost of the various tax reliefs relating to pensions are published by HM Revenue and Customs on their website and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

The following table shows the approximate proportion of annual income tax relief on pension contributions by income bands in 2009-10.

2009-10 tax year

Income bands	*Percentage of income tax relief on contributions*
£0 to £19,999	8
£20,000 to £44,999	31
£45,000 to £74,999	27
£75,000 to £99,999	8
£100,000 to £149,999	8
Over £150,000	18
All	100

The reductions in the annual allowance in 2011-12 and lifetime allowance from 2012-13 are forecast to reduce the cost of relief by around £4 billion per annum in the steady state, most of which relates to individuals with incomes over £150,000.

Tax Yields

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department uses *(a)* dynamic and *(b)* static models to forecast receipts from (i) value added tax, (ii) fuel duty and (iii) other taxes. [66780]

Justine Greening: Receipts forecasts are produced by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) based on HMRC models of tax receipts and economic determinants provided by the OBR. The process and details of the models used for VAT, fuel duty and other taxes are set out in Office for Budget Responsibility Briefing Document 1: Forecasting the Public Finances, January 2011.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect that the most recent increase in the rate of VAT has had on families in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton, *(b)* North West Hampshire and *(c)* Beaconsfield. [66209]

Mr Gauke: Data to make an assessment of the effect that the most recent increase in the rate of VAT has had on families are not available at constituency level. Annex A of the June 2010 Budget document provided analysis of the distributional impact of the Budget, including the VAT rate change.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Active Places Scheme

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had on the renaming of the Active Places scheme; and if he will make a statement. [66788]

Hugh Robertson: Officials in this Department have had discussions with Sport England about the Active Places scheme, which has been reviewed. The business service provided to local authorities will continue at a reduced cost, and the Active Places name will remain. A separate project is being considered for the consumer facing elements of the scheme, which has a working title of Connecting Sport. This project is currently in the early stages of development.

Advertising: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department collects on the quantity of advertising aimed at children. [65705]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not collect information on the quantity of advertising aimed at children.

The Committee of Advertising Practice and its broadcasting equivalent are responsible for the regulation and consideration of advertisements, as well as Ofcom. The hon. Member may wish to contact these bodies directly for further information about advertisements aimed at children.

Arts: Finance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria exist within the Catalyst Arts Fund to balance grants allocated *(a)* regionally and *(b)* across art forms. [66210]

Mr Vaizey: The Catalyst Arts programme was announced by Arts Council England on 29 June. Criteria for the programme will be published in September.

Ministerial Meetings

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives and (B) employees of BSkyB since 12 May 2010; [66065]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives and (B) employees of News International and its subsidiary organisations since May 2010. [66066]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Department publishes details of Minister's meetings with outside interest groups on our website

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/financial/expenses-and-hospitality/

This is updated on a regular basis. In addition, I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14. Following the consultations on the Ministerial Code, the Department will amend this information if necessary.

In the particular case of the proposed News Corp/BSkyB merger, I have recorded on my Department's website that I had meetings with News Corp on 6 and 20 January, and minutes of these meetings will be published in due course.

Broadband

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met Ministers in the Scottish Government to discuss the roll-out of superfast broadband. [66469]

Mr Vaizey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has not recently met with Ministers of the Scottish Government in person. However, he did discuss the roll-out of superfast broadband in Scotland with the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment, Alex Neil MSP, in a teleconference on the 29 June 2011.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what process companies who wish to bid for funding under the Broadband Investment Fund will be required to follow. [66981]

Mr Vaizey: The Government will publish indicative funding allocations for local authorities and the devolved Administrations to assist them with their local broadband planning. Local authorities and the devolved Administrations will be responsible for selecting suppliers through procurement to upgrade broadband infrastructure and services in their area of administrative responsibility.

Broadband Delivery UK

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many times Broadband Delivery UK has changed the requirements of its local broadband plan; and when the local broadband plan requirements will be finalised. [67361]

Mr Vaizey: The guidance and template documents for the local broadband plans have remained unchanged since publication in March 2011.

Broadband: Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress is being made on the provision of broadband to areas of west Wales. [66082]

Mr Vaizey: The UK Government are working with the Welsh Government on the delivery of superfast broadband to 90% of all premises and a minimum standard broadband service for all premises in Wales. The Welsh Government is currently in procurement for suppliers to meet these broadband objectives in Wales.

Olympic Games 2012

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales applied to be 2012 Olympics games makers. [66654]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are responsible for the games maker volunteer scheme and have not released a breakdown of the number of applications by nation/region. In total, almost 250,000 people applied before the application process closed in October 2010, and LOCOG are now selecting an estimated 100,000 people to attend a face-to-face interview for up to 70,000 games time roles right through to spring 2012. Applications were actively sought from across Wales, Scotland and all the other nations and regions with an aim to recruit a volunteer force that reflects the diversity of the UK. Selection centres have already been run in both Glasgow and Cardiff, and were expected to interview 2,100 and 1,500 applicants respectively.

In addition, London and the UK-wide venue cities are setting up visitor welcome volunteer schemes called ambassadors, so that visitors experience a consistent welcome right across the UK. This includes schemes in Glasgow and Cardiff, as well as the other venue cities across England. Up to 8,000 London ambassadors are being sought, with around 3,300 planned for elsewhere in the UK.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the estimated value to the Scottish economy is of the London 2012 Olympics. [66655]

Hugh Robertson: Scotland stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

As of June 2011, 25 Scottish businesses directly involved in the construction programme have supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority, to the value of almost £24.5 million. This includes Barr Construction, a Glasgow-based company and principal contractor for the basketball arena.

This figure does not include the value of contracts further down the supply chain, however, some of those companies are listed as follows:

Bodycote Testing, Glasgow, provided design services for the Aquatics Centre

Euro Pools, Glasgow, provided specialist testing services for the Aquatics Centre

Turner Access, Glasgow, provided protection equipment for the Aquatics Centre

Wallace Brown, Edinburgh, provided office stationery for the Aquatics Centre

Noral Architects, Glasgow, provided architectural services for Primary Substation

Weldex, Inverness, provided plant hire services for the Olympic Stadium

Additionally, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), is now procuring for the goods and services that it requires to stage the games. At least £700 million worth of contracts will be procured from the open market across eight sectors, and Scottish firms are encouraged to sign up to the online procurement portal CompeteFor to bid for this work, and keep their company profile up-to-date.

Public Lending Right

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future management of Public Lending Right; and if he will make a statement. [66386]

Mr Vaizey: The Government recognises the importance of the Public Lending Right (PLR) to authors. We have made assurances that PLR payments will still be administered by a body operating at arm's length from government and with the same independence and impartiality currently awarded to the PLR Registrar. We are working to resolve as quickly as possible the issues associated with the transfer of the PLR's functions to another body.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with Ofcom the hosting of regional roadshows as part of its review into relay service provision to enable profoundly deaf British Sign Language users to participate in the consultation. [66079]

Mr Vaizey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has no current plans to discuss with Ofcom the way it is conducting its review of relay services.

Ofcom is aware of the differing communications needs of British Sign Language (BSL) users and is fully committed to make its consultation process accessible to BSL users.

When Ofcom publishes the full consultation document on its website it will be accompanied by a BSL video translation. The video will summarise the issues, objectives and findings of the review so far. It will also translate the consultation questions and give an explanation of how BSL users, who wish to do so, can respond to the consultation.

Ofcom will be inviting BSL respondents to provide a response to us on the consultation questions by e-mail or through a video response including a DVD, Windows Media Video (WMV) or by uploading their video response directly to a hosting site such as YouTube and to then send Ofcom the URL link. For video responses that are not marked as confidential, these will then be translated into written English and will be put up on Ofcom's website with other consultation responses alongside a link to the video, so that all interested stakeholders can view responses.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which underperforming schools he expects to convert to academy status in the next academic year; and if he will make a statement. [63012]

Mr Gibb: The Government have published on the Department for Education's website a list of all the sponsored academy projects in development.

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies

Sponsored academies replace underperforming schools. The most recent list was published on 5 July and it included the details of 94 schools that are planned to open as sponsored academies in the academic year 2011/12. This list will be updated every month.

In addition, it was announced on 16 June that as an urgent priority we would look to reopen as academies the 200 primary schools that have been below the floor standard for the last five years or longer. The majority of these schools will become academies in the academic year 2012/13. Those that we are able to open as academies in the academic year 2011/12 will be added to our website as the projects develop.

Academies: Private Education

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether academy schools are allowed to purchase places for their pupils at private schools. [66351]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: An academy's main source of funding is the General Annual Grant (GAG). The Academy Funding Agreement regulates the way in which the academy may use this funding and specifies that it may only be spent by an academy towards the normal running cost of that academy. An academy is also free to further its educational objects through funding obtained outside state sources such as through charitable donations.

It is right that the funding provided by the state should be used fairly to raise educational standards which will benefit all the pupils in an academy. All academies can of course collaborate with, and learn from, the strong education that the independent sector provides. The Government do not however believe that state funding should be used to advance the education of individual pupils at private schools, but should instead be used to further the academy, and its pupils, as a whole.

Children: Databases

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children under 16 are allocated a unique learner number (ULN); what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the operation of the ULN; and whether he has considered reforming the system. [66260]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Over 90% of children aged 13 to 16 within England are allocated a unique learner number (ULN). In 2010, a Skills Funding Agency internal audit of the operation of the ULN and the related systems, and a subsequent internal audit, undertaken jointly by this Department and the Department for Education, concluded that the ULN is managed well with a stable operation and appropriate oversight and controls. The audits noted sound internal and external sources of assurance along with positive feedback from the Information Commissioner's Office.

We will continue to look at how the ULN can support more effective data and information sharing across educational settings to improve efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and provide better learner information to support advice, guidance and access to entitlements.

Children's Centres: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families were in receipt of support from Sure Start children's centres in York in (i) May 2005 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65618]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education does not collect detailed information on Sure Start children's centres in individual local authorities. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in their area to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable. It is for local authorities to commission children's centres and to monitor and evaluate the use and impact of their services.

Classroom Assistants: Sevenoaks

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching assistants were employed in schools in the Sevenoaks area in each of the last five years. [66092]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in publicly funded schools in Sevenoaks constituency in each January, 2006 to 2010.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in publicly funded schools, January 2006 to January 2010, Sevenoaks parliamentary constituency

	Number
2006	260
2007	290
2008	320
2009	380
2010	260

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Curriculum: Low-carbon Technologies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether teaching on low-carbon technologies is currently included in the school curriculum; and what guidance he has issued to schools on its inclusion. [65654]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2011]*: The teaching of low-carbon technologies is not specifically identified within the current national curriculum. However, the programmes of study for science and design and technology set out a number of statutory key concepts which schools are required to teach. For science, these include recognising the importance of sustainability in scientific and technological developments; renewable energy sources and emerging technologies; and related ethical, economic and environmental issues. For design and technology, these include the impact of products beyond meeting their original purpose and assessing products in terms of sustainability.

Departmental Consultants

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on external consultants in respect of *(a)* its consultation on early years learning, *(b)* the development of a Sure Start children's centre reform programme and *(c)* the development of revised school building guidance. [64730]

Sarah Teather: Departmental expenditure on external consultants in respect of each of these issues is set out as follows:

(a) Its consultation on early years learning

Since August 2010, the Department spent £20,275 contracting Dame Clare Tickell, chief executive of Action For Children, to review the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS). Her report, 'The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning', was published on 30 March 2011. Public consultation on a revised EYFS commenced on 6 July.

(b) The development of a Sure Start children's centre reform programme

The Department had a contract with Serco (who led a consortium of organisations known as Together for Children) to support the development of children's centres and the modernisation of services for children and their families, covering the period from October 2006 to March 2011.

The contract was reviewed by the new Government and work was re-focused to help develop the Sure Start reform programme, reducing costs by £621,000. The amount spent under this contract from May 2010 to March 2011 was £6,120,984.

(c) The development of revised school building guidance

Following the publication of the James review of Education Capital, the Department and PfS are reviewing school building guidance. No external consultancy costs have been incurred.

Education: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons his Department decided that England would not participate in the International Computer and Information Literacy Study being conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement. [64666]

Mr Gibb: A decision not to participate in the IEA International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) was taken by the previous Government at the end of 2008.

England has participated, and continues to participate in a number of IEA studies, including the International Civics and Citizenship Study (ICCS) published in 2010, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), both of which are taking place in schools this year. In addition, England participates in the OECD 'Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the European Survey of Language Competencies, which both take place in schools in 2012, and the OECD Teaching and Learning Survey (TALIS) which will take place in 2013, the same year as ICILS.

English Baccalaureate

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* all schools sat at GCSE the subjects which make up the English Baccalaureate in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010; and how many such pupils in the maintained sector were eligible for free school meals. [63984]

Mr Gibb: 1996/97 figures for all schools are given in the following table. Figures for independent and maintained schools in 1996/97 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. A breakdown by free school meal eligibility for pupils in maintained schools in 1996/97 is not available because pupil-level data have only been collected in the School Census since the 2001/02 academic year.

The number of 15 year old pupils[1] in all schools entering the subjects[2] required for the English Baccalaureate in 1996/97

	Number of 15 year old pupils in 1996/97	*Number of 15 year old pupils entering the English Baccalaureate in1996/97*	*Percentage of 15 year old pupils entering the English Baccalaureate in 1996/97*
All schools	586,766	292,568	49.9

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August 1996.

[2] Figures for subjects making up the English Baccalaureate include GCSEs only/

Source:

School and College Performance Tables (Final Data)

2009/10 figures are as follows:

The number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering the subjects[1] required for the English Baccalaureate in 2009/10

	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	*Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering the English Baccalaureate in 2009/10*	*Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering the English Baccalaureate in 2009/10*
All schools[2]	639,263	140,551	22.0
Independent schools	49,455	14,363	29.0
Mainstream independent schools	47,094	14,343	30.5
Independent special schools	2,361	20	0.8
Maintained schools[3]	578,060	126,182	21.8
Pupils attending maintained schools eligible for free school meals[4]	77,321	6,262	8.1

[1] Figures for subjects making up the English Baccalaureate include GCSEs and legacy iGCSEs only.

[2] Figures for independent and maintained schools do not sum up to the total as Community Hospital Schools and Pupil referral units are not included in the breakdown.

[3] Including CTCs and academies.

[4] FSM eligibility taken from the 2010 Spring School Census (January 2010).

Source:

National Pupil Database (Final Data)

English Baccalaureate: Teachers

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the number of fully qualified teachers available to teach core English baccalaureate subjects. [64951]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector is collected in the new School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010. The "School Workforce Census Statistical First Release" provides a head count of teachers to year groups 7 to 13 by subject in Table 12 and the proportions of teachers with a relevant post A-level qualification in the subjects they taught to year groups 7 to 13, split by subject, in Table 13.

The following table summarises the number of teachers of English baccalaureate subjects, and the proportion with a relevant post A-level qualification in the subject taught.

Teachers of English baccalaureate subjects[1] in publicly funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7 to 13 in 2010, and the proportions with a relevant post A-level qualification[2, 3] in the subject, November 2010, coverage: England

Subject[1]	*Total head count (Thousands)*	*Any relevant post A-level qualification[2] (percentage)*
Mathematics	33.0	74.0
English	36.6	79.6
Combined/General Science[4]	33.3	88.6
Physics[4]	5.6	68.6
Chemistry[4]	6.7	72.7
Biology[4]	8.4	88.4
History	15.0	75.5

Teachers of English baccalaureate subjects[1] in publicly funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7 to 13 in 2010, and the proportions with a relevant post A-level qualification[2, 3] in the subject, November 2010, coverage: England

Subject[1]	*Total head count (Thousands)*	*Any relevant post A-level qualification[3] (percentage)*
Geography	13.5	72.0
French	14.7	76.6
German	5.7	68.5
Spanish	6.4	53.2
Other Modern Languages	3.3	33.5
Classics[5]	0.6	48.3

[1] Teachers are counted once against each subject that they are teaching. Head counts are used, so a teacher teaching French and German would be counted once in each. In the science subjects, the teacher will be counted under the subject as marked on their timetable—if a teacher is marked as teaching physics then they will only be counted under physics, whereas if they are marked as teaching physics and combined/general science they will be counted once against each subject. The 33,300 combined/general science teachers are teachers with combined/general science on their timetables; the figure does not include physics, biology and chemistry teachers unless they are teaching it as an additional subject and is marked as such on their timetables.

[2] A full list of what was deemed as a 'relevant' qualification subject for each curriculum subject taught can be found on the SFR home page.

[3] Includes all qualifications at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 4 and above.

[4] Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry, or physics are qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Classics includes classics, classical Greek, classical Hebrew and Latin.

[6] Not all schools were able to submit curriculum information, and not all qualifications returns were complete. Qualifications information was either not provided, or the subject field was missing for 12% of the teachers in schools submitting curriculum data.

Note:

Percentages are row percentages, and based on the number of teachers for whom curriculum and qualifications information was provided.

Source:

School Workforce Census, SFR Table 13.

A full list of subjects and the proportion of teachers with a relevant qualification are available in Table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Further Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish details of applications received by his Department to open *(a)* free schools for 16 to 19 year olds and *(b)* university technical colleges in September 2012. [64209]

Mr Gibb: The Department is currently assessing the applications it has received to establish free schools and university technical colleges in September 2012. These include proposals for four 16-19 and 19 UTCs. An announcement will be made in due course about those that are approved to move to the next stage of development.

Headteachers: Ethnic Groups

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many non-white male head teachers are employed in schools in *(a)* Brighton and Hove, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* England. [65679]

Mr Gibb: In November 2010 there were 130 male head teachers recorded as being from non-white ethnic groups employed in publicly funded schools in England; this represents 1.8% of those male head teachers whose ethnic group was recorded.

Information disaggregated below national level will become available on 20 July. A wide range of regional, local authority and school level workforce measures, including ethnicity, will be published on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Non-white ethnic groups include those of mixed white origins. The information provided is taken from the School Workforce Census and, of the 7,620 male head teachers in service, ethnicity details were provided for 7,260.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much mainstream grant funding was allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools to *(a)* the university of York and *(b)* York St John university in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [65738]

Mr Gibb: The TDA allocated the following mainstream grant to the university of York and York St John university in the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

		£
	Financial year	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
University of York	772,000	799,000
York St John	3,765,000	3,672,000

History: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for a (i) history GCSE and (ii) history A-level in 2010. [65389]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils entering GCSE and A-level history by Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, 2009/10

		Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils*
Pupils entering GCSE history[1, 2]	FSM[3]	14,131	18.3
	Non- FSM[3]	159,981	32.0

Number and percentage of pupils entering GCSE and A-level history by Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, 2009/10

		Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils*
Students entering into A-level history[4, 5]	FSM[6]	1,245	5.1
	Non- FSM[6]	32,778	11.1

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs).

[2] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[3] FSM eligibility taken from the 2010 Spring School Census (January 2010).

[4] Maintained schools and FE sector colleges only. Pupils taking A levels in independent schools are not included.

[5] Students entered for a GCE or Applied GCE A level or other Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A level and aged 16-18 at the start of the 2009/10 academic year i.e. 31 August 2009.

[6] Pupils eligible for free school meals at the end of year 11.

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data)

Home Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to issue new guidance on how home-educated children can be funded to attend further education colleges for GCSE courses. [66261]

Mr Gibb: The guidance for the alternative provision census is currently being reviewed. We will clarify the section on home education to make it clear that local authorities can include home-educated children where the authority is paying for their education in a further education college or elsewhere, and so receive funding for these children through the dedicated schools grant.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to encouraging local authorities to reclaim the cost of college fees for children who are electively home-educated via the alternative provision census. [66262]

Mr Gibb: The Department published guidance to local authorities in June 2010 explaining how they can access this funding. The guidance for the alternative provision census is currently being reviewed and we will consider clarifying the section on home education to make it clear that local authorities can include home-educated children where the authority is paying for their education in a further education college or elsewhere. The census enables the local authority to receive funding for these children through the dedicated schools grant.

Ofsted: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff at Ofsted were entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such staff received a salary greater than £25,900 per year; and what the total cost to the public purse was of employing such staff on such duties. [65983]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 12 July 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest period for which figures are available is 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011. During that time, Ofsted had one full-time trade union representative, and 21 staff working part-time on trade union activities. Of those 21 part-time representatives, 15 were allocated a total of 30 days' time or less in the period.

Where facility time was allocated, two members of staff received an equivalent salary of more than £25,900 for that time. The total cost to Ofsted of time spent on trade union activities in the period was £196,000.

Ofsted follows the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service Code of Practice, 'Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities'.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information his Department holds on the percentage difference in per pupil funding levels set by each local authority for *(a)* maintained, *(b)* private, *(c)* voluntary and *(d)* independent places as part of the Early Years Single Funding Formula; [65170]

(2) what information his Department holds on whether any maintained nursery schools have been indicated for closure by local authorities implementing the Early Years Single Funding Formula. [65171]

Sarah Teather: In order to improve fairness and transparency in the way free early education funding is distributed all local authorities have been required to implement an early years single funding formula from April 2011. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forums, decide how best to distribute 3-16 funding across their locality. This includes setting funding rates for maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers of free early education. Local authorities are required to report on financial expenditure through section 251 returns. Data on individual local authority spend for 2011-12 are not yet available, but will be published later in the year. The Department has undertaken analysis of the rates paid by the 71 pathfinder local authorities that implemented their early years single funding formula from 2010. This analysis includes a breakdown of medium rates per hour by types of provider.

Further details are available on our website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/funding/a0064843/early_years-single-funding-formula-analysis

The Department does not hold information on whether maintained nursery schools have closed as a result of the implementation of the early years single funding formula. The Department issues statutory guidance to local decision makers on handling school organisation proposals. This guidance includes a presumption against closure of maintained nursery schools, on the basis that they generally offer high quality provision.

The following table provides details of the 18 local authority maintained nursery school closures that have been implemented since 2009 along with the reason for closure.

Reason for closure	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
Cease to maintain	1	—	—	1

Reason for closure	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
Close for brand new primary	—	3	—	3
Close for brand new children's centre	5	—	—	5
Close to be added on to current school provision	3	4	2	9
Total	9	7	2	18

This shows that in only one case (cease to maintain) the nursery provision was not replaced with planned alternative provision. In all other cases the closures were effectively technical and each was replaced with early years provision of some type.

Primary and Secondary Education: Standards

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of *(a)* children of members of the armed forces and *(b)* all children achieved the expected standard in reading and writing at Key Stage 1 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010; [64932]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* children of members of the armed forces and *(b)* all children achieved the expected standard in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010; [64999]

(3) what proportion of *(a)* children of members of the armed forces and *(b)* all children at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved (i) five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent and (ii) five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics in (A) 1997 and (B) 2010. [64998]

Mr Gibb: The figures requested for 2010 are given in the tables. Figures for children of members of the armed forces for 1997 are not available because data for these children has only been included on the National Pupil Database since 2008.

Information on service children should be treated with caution as there is known under-reporting of the data.

Key Stage 1

	Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving the expected level in reading	*Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving expected level in writing*	*Percentage of all children achieving the expected level in reading*	*Percentage of all children achieving the expected level in writing*
2010[1]	87.0	83.2	84.7	80.9
1997[2]	n/a	n/a	80	80

n/a = Not available.

[1] Source: National Pupil Database

[2] Source: Statistical Release 6/99 (National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14-year-olds in England—1998). Figures only available to Odp.

Coverage:

England, maintained school's (including Academies and CTCs)

Note:

Figures are based on final data.

Key Stage 2

	Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving the expected level in English	*Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving the expected level in maths*	*Percentage of all children achieving the expected level in English*	*Percentage of all children achieving the expected level in Maths*
2010[1]	82.7	81.7	80.4	80.1
1997[2]	n/a	n/a	63	62

n/a = Not available.

[1] Source: National Pupil Database.

[2] Source: Statistical Release 6/99 (National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14-year-olds in England—1998). Figures only available to Odp.

Coverage:

England, maintained school's (including Academies and CTCs)

Note:

Figures are based on final data.

Key Stage 4

	Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving 5+ A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*	*Percentage of children of members of the armed forces achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSE*	*Percentage of all children at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*	*Percentage of all children at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSE*
2010[1]	78.8	59.9	76.1	55.1
1997[2]	n/a	n/a	42.5	32.5

n/a = Not available.

[1] Source: National Pupil Database.

[2] Source: School Performance tables.

Coverage:

England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)

Note:

Figures are based on final data.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* newly-appointed head teachers and *(b)* school improvement plans in improving standards in underperforming primary schools. [66455]

Mr Gibb: We do not gather specific data on the impact of new head teachers on improving standards in underperforming primary schools, as improvement plans are tailored to the needs of the school and will vary. In Ofsted's last annual report, November 2010, inspectors cite leadership and management as being one of the key weaknesses in inadequate primary schools. In some of these schools, bringing in a new head teacher will be the best way to turn school performance around.

School improvement plans are developed, implemented and monitored locally. Parents and others can assess the effects of a school's improvement plan through the publication of the school's performance data.

Pupil Exclusions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls were subject to fixed period exclusions in maintained secondary schools in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [64108]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

The latest available data on exclusions were published in the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2008/09' on 29 July 2010 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000942/index.shtml

Information for 2009/10 is due to be published on 28 July 2011.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in *(a)* East Sussex, *(b)* Brighton and Hove, *(c)* Brighton, Kemptown constituency and *(d)* West Sussex who will qualify for the pupil premium. [59152]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium for 2011-12 has been allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals attracts £430 of funding which goes to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting, or is managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities also attract the looked after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which is being allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2011 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2010 as recorded on the April 2011 local authority return. Each pupil attracts £430 of funding, which goes to the responsible local authority who pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The service child premium for 2011-12 is allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils who are registered as service children on the January 2011 School Census.

Each pupil known to be eligible attracts £200 of funding which goes to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA.

In East Sussex in January 2011 there were 9,220 pupils known to be eligible for FSM, 20 Service children and, based on 2010 figures, 330 looked after children.

In Brighton and Hove there were 5,030 children eligible for FSM, no service children, and, based on 2010 figures, 250 looked after children.

In West Sussex there were 8,110 children known to be eligible for FSM, 400 service children and, based on 2010 figures, 460 looked after children.

Figures for looked after children will be updated in September, when data from the March 2011 looked after children return is finalised.

In the Brighton, Kemptown constituency in January 2011 there were 8,411 pupils known to be eligible for FSM and no service children. These are approximate figures as it is not possible to determine the number of parliamentary constituency pupils recorded on the alternative provision census or recorded as looked after as they are both local authority, rather than establishment level, returns.

Note:

The local authority level figures in the above include FTE FSM-eligible pupils, in reception to year 11, or aged four-15 if not following, the National Curriculum, as at the January 2011 School Census and Pupil Referral Unit Census and headcount from four-15 in the Alternative Provision Census (i.e. those pupils funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in non-maintained special schools, further education establishments, etc.) those eligible for the service child premium and those eligible for the looked after child pupil premium. Dual main registrations and sole registrations for five to 15 and all registrations for four year olds are taken. Pupil numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children entitled to free school meals *(a)* entered for and *(b)* passed (1) GCSE Physics in each year since 1997; [64978]

(2) GCSE History in each year since 1997; [64979]

(3) a GCSE in a modern foreign language in each year since 1997; [64980]

(4) a GCSE English paper (English Language or English Literature) in each year since 1997; [64981]

(5) GCSE Mathematics in each year since 1997. [64982]

Mr Gibb: Figures for the years 2005/06 to 2009/10 are given as follows. Figures for the years 2001/02 to 2004/05 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Figures for the years prior to 2001/02 are not available because pupil-level data have only been collected in the School Census since the 2001/02 academic year.

Number of GCSE entries and passes by pupils[1] who are eligible for free school meals, 2005/06 to 2009/10 (final data), coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Number of FSM pupils	78,087	76,566	74,760	74,419	77,321
Physics					
Number entering	1,419	1,495	2,080	2,954	5,106
Percentage entering	1.8	2.0	2.8	4.0	6.6
Number passing	1,400	1,481	2,074	2,947	5,099
Percentage passing	1.8	1.9	2.8	4.0	6.6

Number of GCSE entries and passes by pupils[1] who are eligible for free school meals, 2005/06 to 2009/10 (final data), coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
History					
Number entering	14,726	14,057	13,348	13,475	14,131
Percentage entering	18.9	18.4	17.9	18.1	18.3
Number passing	13,632	13,048	12,460	12,688	13,375
Percentage passing	17.5	17.0	16.7	17.0	17.3
Modern Foreign Language[2]					
Number entering	23,840	21,152	19,365	19,044	18,688
Percentage entering	30.5	27.6	25.9	25.6	24.2
Number passing	23,383	20,822	19,103	18,778	18,472
Percentage passing	29.9	27.2	25.6	25.2	23.9
Mathematics[3]					
Number entering	70,419	69,579	68,437	68,168	71,931
Percentage entering	90.2	90.9	91.5	91.6	93.0
Number passing	65,558	64,875	64,877	65,260	69,590
Percentage passing	84.0	84.7	86.8	87.7	90.0
English[3, 4]					
Number entering	68,498	67,851	66,812	67,436	71,288
Percentage entering	87.7	88.6	89.4	90.6	92.2
Number passing	66,204	65,760	64,971	65,821	69,781
Percentage passing	84,8	85.9	86.9	88.4	90.2

[1] Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4.

[2] Includes GCSEs in the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

[3] In 2010 GCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[4] English GCSE refers to English Language, English Language and Literature or English studies. This is the standard definition of English used in "English & mathematics" thresholds. These figures also include English Literature GCSE.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children entitled to free school meals *(a)* entered for and *(b)* passed a qualification which was not a GCSE but which was counted towards a school's rankings in GCSE performance tables in each year since 1997. [64984]

Mr Gibb: Figures for the years prior to 2001/02 are not available because pupil level data have been collected in the School Census only since the 2001/02 academic year.

Figures for the years 2001/02 to 2009/10 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. These data are not readily available on the National Pupil Database (NPD) in pre-defined form, and would need to be calculated. Detailed analysis is required to investigate which information in the NPD could be used to calculate the requested information correctly. This analysis and the time needed to quality assure the results could be completed only at a disproportionate cost.

Religion: Education

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in schools in England are being taught religious education at key stage *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 4. [64182]

Mr Gibb: The law requires all maintained schools in England to provide RE to all registered pupils at the school for the duration of their schooling. Academies are also required by their funding agreements. However, parents can withdraw their child from RE if they wish. We do not gather any data about the number of pupils withdrawn from RE.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken against schools which have not fulfilled their obligations in respect of the teaching of religious education at Key Stage *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 4 since his appointment; and what sanctions are available to his Department in such cases. [64183]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not been made aware of specific instances of schools which have not fulfilled their obligations in respect of the teaching of religious education at any key stage.

Religious education (RE) is a statutory part of the basic curriculum and all maintained schools, by law, must provide RE for all pupils attending school.

The head teacher of a school, its governors, and the local authority, are responsible for ensuring that the school provides religious education: maintained schools are obliged to follow the locally agreed syllabus provided by the local authority.

Academies are also required to provide RE, and this is set out in an academy's funding agreement. As with all subjects, academies have the freedom to design their own curriculum for RE. A parent may raise a complaint about an academy with the academy trust, and if their complaint is not handled appropriately, they may refer it to the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which deals with complaints about academies on behalf of the Secretary of State.

A complaint about the curriculum in maintained schools should in the first instance be considered by the governing body (GB), as they share responsibility for the curriculum with the head teacher. If the complainant is not satisfied with the way in which the GB considers their complaint, they may refer it to the local authority. Ultimately the matter may be referred to the Secretary of State if it is still not resolved.

Schools: GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* modern schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges and *(f)* other further education sector colleges were entered for A-levels in (i) accounting, (ii) art and design, (iii) business studies, (iv) communication studies, (v) dance, (vi) design and technology, (vii) drama and theatre studies, (viii) film studies, (ix) health and social care, (x) home economics, (xi) information and communication technology, (xii) leisure studies, (xiii) media studies, (xiv) music technology, (xv) performance studies, (xvi) performing arts, (xvii) photography, (xviii) physical education, (xix) sports studies, (xx) travel and tourism and (xxi) law or any (A) two and (B) three or more of the above subjects in (1) 1997 and (2) 2010; [64206]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* modern schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges and *(f)* other further education sector colleges were entered for A-levels in (i) mathematics, (ii) further mathematics, (iii) English, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) geography, (viii) history, (ix) a classical language and (x) a modern language or any (A) two or (B) three of the above subjects in (1) 1997 and (2) 2010. [64207]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2011]:* The available information for 2010 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Information for 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sixth-form Colleges

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to increase the number of sixth-form colleges. [64714]

Mr Gibb: There are no specific plans to increase the number of sixth-form colleges. We wish to encourage new providers to enter the market, where there is demand, in order to drive up quality and raise standards. This could include new sixth-form colleges. Through the Education Bill we are legislating to enable any person or body to make a direct application to the Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to establish a sixth-form college corporation.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy that schools which are designated as teaching schools have a minimum Ofsted rating of very good for the quality of their provision for children with special educational needs or disabilities. [66791]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), approved stringent designation criteria for teaching schools that include outstanding judgments for leadership and management, teaching and learning and overall effectiveness. To achieve this, schools must demonstrate that they have good provision for children with special educational needs or disabilities.

Teachers

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his proposed Teaching Agency will be responsible for the professional development of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom-based support staff. [65513]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* The Teaching Agency's responsibility will include support for teachers and classroom-based support staff. The details of how this support will be delivered are being developed.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to undertake his promised revaluation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [65518]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011. The valuations remain on hold pending detailed consideration of the implications of the new discount rate.

Teachers: Qualifications

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to recognise *(a)* Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills and *(b)* Qualified Teacher Status qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [66263]

Mr Gibb: Following her review of vocational education, Professor Wolf recommended that Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status should be recognised in schools. We agree that schools should have the freedom to appoint the right teachers for their pupils and the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), immediately accepted this recommendation.

Professor Wolf's recommendation will be implemented as soon as possible subject to statutory requirements and parliamentary process. We will consult fully on any amendments to the existing regulations.

Teachers: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the gross average salary of a full-time teacher in local authority schools in York Central was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [65612]

Mr Gibb: The information requested for York Central constituency is not available.

The following table provides the gross average salary of teachers in service in local authority maintained schools by cash terms and real terms for York local authority, in each March, 1997 to 2009.

Teacher average salary information for England in November 2010 was published in April 2011 at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Information disaggregated below national level will become available on 20 July. A wide range of regional, local authority and school level workforce measures, including pay will be included.

Gross average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools[2] in cash and real terms[3], March 1997 to March 2009[4], York local authority

£

As at March each year	Cash terms	Real terms
1997	22,600	30,300
1998	23,200	30,400
1999	24,100	30,900
2000	24,900	31,300
2001	26,900	33,400
2002	27,800	33,800
2003	29,700	34,900
2004	30,600	34,900
2005	32,100	35,800
2006	33,100	36,200
2007	34,300	36,300
2008[4]	[5]—	[5]—
2009[4]	35,800	35,800

[1] Teachers of all grades including school leadership.
[2] Excludes CTCs and Academies.
[3] Real terms figures calculated at 2008-09 prices using 28 June 2011 GDP deflators.
[4] Provisional.
[5] Figures are not sufficiently reliable.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Brazil

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he discussed the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development with representatives of the Brazilian Government during his recent visit to Brazil; and what the outcome was of any such discussion. [67385]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I discussed the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development with members of the Brazilian Government including the Vice President and Foreign Minister. Conscious of the lasting impact of the Rio Conference of 1992, I made clear that the UK would play a full part in partnership with Brazil in helping this conference, 20 years on, plot a sustainable way forward for the world for the next 20 years.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs held detailed discussions on this during her visit to Brazil in April and is in close touch with the Brazilian Environment Minister.

Members: Correspondence

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead (Teresa Pearce) of 15 April 2011 on behalf of a constituent, Maurice Seamons. [66467]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Minister with responsibility for political and constitutional reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper), has replied on my behalf to the letter of 15 April from the hon. Member.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67412]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am the Deputy Chair of the National Security Council. I regularly attend meetings of both the main Council and its Libya sub-committee and chair both in the absence of the Prime Minister. Like the Prime Minister, I am able to contribute a whole-of-government perspective and to ensure the overall objectives of the NSC are achieved.

PRIME MINISTER

Phone Hacking

Ann McKechin: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had discussions with the First Minister of Scotland on allegations of telephone hacking by the *News of the World*; and on what date any such discussions took place. [66100]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow East (Margaret Curran) on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 329.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the advice from the Cabinet Secretary to the then Prime Minister in early 2010 on the case for a statutory public inquiry into allegations of telephone hacking. [66725]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the advice that was published by the Cabinet Secretary on 14 July 2011. This is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-secretary-advice-establishment-judicial-inquiry

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister when his Chief of Staff first received information about the alleged involvement of the *News of the World* with criminals; what steps he took in response; and on what date. [66968]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 302-03.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the death of Ahmed Wali Karzai on NATO-led negotiations with the Taliban. [67353]

Alistair Burt: Any process of reconciliation with the insurgency must be led by the Afghan Government. President Karzai has established the High Peace Council and the Joint Afghanistan/Pakistan Peace Commission to take this forward. Ahmed Wali Karzai was not directly involved in this work and we expect these institutions to continue their activity. However, it is too early to judge the full impact of his death on reconciliation.

British Nationals Abroad

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Government's ability to evacuate UK citizens from *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Yemen and *(c)* Pakistan. [65483]

Alistair Burt: Given current circumstances, our consular contingency plans for Syria and Yemen are regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the latest situation on the ground. For Yemen, our travel advice is quite clear, if people do not leave the country now, while commercial carriers are still flying, it is extremely unlikely that the British Government will be able to evacuate them or provide consular assistance. And for Syria, we have advised that those who choose to remain in Syria, or to visit against our advice should be aware that it is highly unlikely that our embassy would be able to provide a normal consular service in the event of a further breakdown in law and order and increased violent civil disorder. Evacuation options would be limited because of likely communication and travel restrictions. This advice was only given after careful consideration of the threats and difficulties that would face an official Government-led evacuation.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Officials regularly review contingency planning elsewhere in the world, including for Pakistan. Our ability to evacuate large numbers of people would always be limited.

British nationals who are, or are planning to go overseas should always monitor the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice. If this advises departure from a given country, we encourage British nationals to take responsibility for their own safety and to follow that advice.

British Nationals Abroad: Death

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have died abroad in the last five years; and what the country of death was in each case. [64227]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The figures in the table are the total numbers of deaths of British nationals overseas, of which we have been notified, for the financial years 2006-08 and 2008-11 by country. For 2006-08 these figures are the number of deaths that required consular action, taken from the Consular Annual Return submitted by overseas missions. The figures for 2008-11 are all deaths as recorded on Compass, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular assistance database.

Country	*Total*
Afghanistan	28
Albania	8
Algeria	2
Angola	7
Antigua and Barbuda	7
Argentina	22
Australia	380
Austria	92
Azerbaijan	5
Bahamas	2
Bahrain	65
Bangladesh	20
Barbados	81
Belarus	2
Belgium	150
Belize	11
Bolivia	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14
Botswana	23
Brazil	89
British Virgin Islands	6
Brunei	10
Bulgaria	132
Burma	4
Cambodia	55
Cameroon	11
Canada	341
Cayman Islands	14
Chile	22
China	211
Colombia	11
Congo, Democratic Republic of	7
Costa Rica	20
Croatia	49
Cuba	42
Curacao	1
Cyprus	915
Czech Republic	68
Denmark	71
Dominican Republic	79
Ecuador	23
Egypt	342
Eritrea	2
Estonia	11
Ethiopia	28
Fiji	9
Finland	18
France	2,368
Gambia	51
Georgia	3
Germany	1,855
Ghana	57
Greece	652
Grenada	2
Guatemala	15
Guinea	1
Guyana	5
Hungary	32
Iceland	12
India	645
Indonesia	67
Iran	4
Iraq	38
Ireland	77
Israel	34
Italy	615

Country	*Total*
Jamaica	118
Japan	57
Jerusalem	9
Jordan	32
Kazakhstan	10
Kenya	161
Kosovo	2
Kuwait	111
Laos	1
Latvia	6
Lebanon	29
Libya	15
Lithuania	8
Luxembourg	1
Macedonia	6
Malawi	23
Malaysia	139
Malta	213
Mauritius	22
Mexico	95
Mongolia	1
Montenegro	5
Morocco	82
Mozambique	11
Namibia	14
Nepal	18
Netherlands	150
New Zealand	192
Nigeria	78
Norway	140
Oman	47
Pakistan	84
Panama	4
Papua New Guinea	4
Peru	34
Philippines	243
Poland	96
Portugal	980
Qatar	43
Romania	25
Russia	48
Rwanda	8
Saudi Arabia	124
Senegal	14
Serbia	13
Seychelles	6
Sierra Leone	18
Singapore	92
Slovakia	24
Slovenia	5
Solomon Islands	3
South Africa	264
South Korea	19
Spain	8,363
Sri Lanka	64
St Lucia	12
Sudan	9
Sweden	99
Switzerland	433
Syria	3
Taiwan	4
Tanzania	20
Thailand	1,491
Trinidad and Tobago	18
Tunisia	74
Turkey	458
Turkmenistan	2
Uganda	20
Ukraine	18
United Arab Emirates	307
Uruguay	3
USA	674
Uzbekistan	4
Venezuela	18
Vietnam	54
Yemen	4
Zambia	86
Zimbabwe	64

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department plans to give to the mandatory assignment of family liaison officers in cases of deaths of UK citizens abroad. [64229]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The decision on whether or not to deploy a family liaison officer (FLO) following the death of a British national abroad rests with the chief officer of the appropriate police force.

We understand that the Association of Chief Police Officers are currently working on terms of reference to ensure that the decision is made in a consistent way across the country.

Council of Europe

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the immunity of delegates to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe when making statements *(a)* orally and *(b)* in writing at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its committees. [62747]

Mr Lidington: The immunities of delegates to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) are set out in Part V of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities in the Council of Europe (1949) and its Additional Protocol (1952). In particular, article 15 of the General Agreement states that:

> During the sessions of the Consultative Assembly, the Representatives to the Assembly and their substitutes, whether they be members of Parliament or not, shall enjoy:
>
> a) on their national territory, the immunities accorded in those countries to members of Parliament;
>
> b) on the territory of all other member States, exemption from arrest and prosecution.

Article 5 of the Additional Protocol states that:

> Privileges, immunities and facilities are accorded to the representatives of members not for the personal benefit of the individuals concerned, but in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Council of Europe. Consequently, a member has not only the right but the duty to waive the immunity of its representative in any case where, in the opinion of the member, the immunity would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the purpose for which the immunity is accorded.

Cyprus: Press Freedom

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Turkish authorities in northern Cyprus regarding protection for *(a)* freedom of the press and *(b)* free speech following recent acts of intimidation of journalists and newspapers in that area; and if he will make a statement. [66184]

Mr Lidington: The UK takes very seriously freedom of speech and the right for the press to publish factual information. I was disturbed by the recent reports of intimidation of journalists in northern Cyprus, including the attempt against the life of a journalist at the Afrika newspaper. Officials from our high commission in Nicosia have raised their concern on these issues with a number of senior contacts within the Turkish Cypriot community.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made and to whom regarding the ending of the emergency law provisions in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [66185]

Mr Lidington: We have not made any representations regarding the ending of the emergency law provisions in northern Cyprus and have no plans to do so.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking at UN level to ensure that MONUSCO troops are able to detain soldiers alleged to have committed an offence of rape until the police are able to attend to the matter. [66203]

Mr Lidington: MONUSCO has recently assisted with the transfer of soldiers accused and convicted of rape. UN Security Council resolution 1991, which the British Government had a significant part in shaping, instructs the UN Peacekeeping Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) to act under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the most robust possible mandate. UNSCR 1991 prioritises the protection of civilians. UNSCR 1991 also emphasises the need to act against sexual and gender based violence, and to help end impunity. We regularly encourage MONUSCO to work closely with the DRC security forces to prevent human rights violations by their members, and ensure the detention and prosecution of those responsible.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63563]

Mr Lidington: In May 2010 the Government target to pay 90% of supplier invoices within 10 working days was replaced with a new target to pay 80% of supplier invoices in five working days. In the period from June 2010 to May 2011 the FCO paid 88.4% of supplier invoices within five working days of receiving a valid invoice. The FCO supports this important Government initiative and is aware of the importance of paying suppliers as quickly as possible.

Information on the size of the FCO's suppliers is not held centrally so to identify invoices from only small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66755]

Mr Lidington: Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office delivered a reduction of 18.1% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government Commitments it is now committed to delivering a 25% reduction in green house gases by 2014-15.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's non-weather corrected office emissions in June 2010 amounted to 760 tonnes carbon dioxide.

FCO non-weather corrected emissions from its office estate for June 2011 amounted to 705 tonnes carbon dioxide.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66325]

Mr Lidington: Recruitment undertaken by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and non-departmental bodies since May 2010 is as follows:

FCO	112.4
BBC World Service	34.4
British Council	88
Wilton Park	5
FCO Services	47
Westminster Foundation for Democracy	3
Great Britain China Centre	0
Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission	6
Foreign Compensation Commission	0

There have been no compulsory redundancies undertaken by FCO and non-departmental bodies since May 2010.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66525]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information centrally on all contracts awarded as budgets are devolved to directorates in London and to over 260 posts overseas. The annual value of current contracts in each sector could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64428]

Mr Lidington: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers value exchanges with hon. Members on their work and will always try to accommodate their requests for meetings. We do not hold a record of the occasions where this has not been possible. I know that many hon. Members also speak directly with FCO officials on a variety of subjects, and welcome this contact.

Developing Countries: Marriage

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps British embassies and high commissions are taking to encourage developing countries to reduce rates of early and forced marriage. [66123]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK is a world-leader in tackling forced marriage, including child (or early) marriage. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic abuse, a serious abuse of human rights and, where a minor is involved, child abuse.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)—a joint initiative between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Home Office—was set up in January 2005 as the Government's one-stop shop for dealing with forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals.

The FCO promotes human rights for all people, including children, in line with the UK's values and obligations. We do this through our work in the United Nations and the European Union, and we also work bilaterally with other countries to implement the UN convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and its two optional protocols. The UK strongly supports the CRC, which sets the international standard for protecting and promoting the rights of children, and works hard to encourage countries to fulfil their obligations.

British embassies and high commissions monitor and raise human rights issues, including women's and children's rights, in their host countries. FCO staff routinely raise our concerns with host governments and, where appropriate, take action on individual cases and push for changes in unfair practices and laws. In countries where there are significant numbers of forced marriage cases (particularly in South Asia), embassies and high commissions do specific work to highlight the issue of forced and child marriage as a human rights abuse. For example in Pakistan, the high commission has worked with a local non-governmental organisation to deliver a major awareness-raising campaign, runs an outreach programme (including workshops with local government officials, and a women's rights workshop with human rights activists), and participates in media activity to encourage discussion in the community. The FMU, in conjunction with embassies and high commissions, is currently developing plans to expand this work across South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

The FCO released our 2010 Human Rights Report in March. The report covers our work on human rights issues in 2010 and looks in-depth at the human rights situation in 26 countries of concern. It also contains sections on women's and children's rights. You can read and comment on the report by visiting our website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/hrdreport

European Union

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who sits on the Darroch-Cunliffe Committee; what its terms of reference are; and to whom it reports. [66206]

Mr Letwin: I have been asked to reply.

This is a regular meeting chaired by the Prime Minister's adviser on European and global issues attended by the UK permanent representative to the EU and senior officials from across Government Departments to consider items of EU business and agree advice to Ministers.

Camp Ashraf

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Camp Ashraf in Iran. [66459]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned about the humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, and continue to monitor events closely. We continue to urge the Government of Iraq to allow medical supplies to enter the camp and ensure that residents have full access to medical care. Along with our international partners, including the US, we continue to press the Iraqi authorities to ensure that the residents of the camp are treated in accordance with the rights and protections they enjoy under international human rights law and domestic Iraqi law, in particular the Iraqi constitution. The UK visited the camp on 7 July on a consular visit to assess whether any British nationals required assistance.

Israel: British Nationals Abroad

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Israeli counterpart the case of UK activists held at Givon prison in Ramle, Israel; if he will establish the basis for their detention; whether any charges have been brought; under what conditions they are being held; and if he will make a statement. [66231]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* I can confirm 12 British nationals were detained on 8 July at Ben Gurion airport. By 13 July, all but one had returned to the UK, with one being allowed to enter Israel. None of them were charged. The legal basis for their detention is a matter for the Israeli authorities, and for the detainees to follow up through their own lawyer should they wish to. However, our travel advice clearly states that travellers to the Occupied Territories may face difficulties on arrival. They were visited four times by consular staff, including a visit by our ambassador to Israel.

Our ambassador was in regular contact with the Israeli Government at a senior level to facilitate the quickest possible return of the detainees, and his team were in constant communication to raise and resolve issues at the working level. We will follow up any allegations of mistreatment with the Israeli authorities.

Kashmir: Human Rights

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on Amnesty International's recent report on the human rights situation in Kashmir. [65707]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the recent report by Amnesty International that provides evidence of large numbers of detentions in Indian administered Kashmir over the past twenty years. Members of the all-party parliamentary group on Kashmir raised it with me when I met them on 7 June 2011. The Minister of State, my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howell, answered a similar question in the other place on 6 April 2011, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA396.

During a recent visit to Indian-administered Kashmir, officials from our High Commission in New Delhi discussed this issue with the Jammu and Kashmir state police and human rights groups. The issue of security legislation including the Armed Forces Special Powers Act as enforced in certain regions of India, was raised with the Indian Government during the recent EU-India human rights dialogue.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the UK's involvement in operations in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [67095]

Alistair Burt: The UK's involvement in operations in Libya is under continuous assessment.

Our involvement remains compliant with UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973, and our actions continue to save lives. NATO strikes have prevented Benghazi from falling, have reduced pressure on the besieged city of Misrata, and have enabled delivery of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of thousands of wounded. We will sustain these operations until the Gaddafi regime ceases attacks on its own people and complies with the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings of the Libya Contact Group have been attended by his Department's officials over the last six months. [66252]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have attended each of the three meetings of the Libya Contact Group held to date.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the National Transitional Council of Libya over the last six months. [66253]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have met with representatives of the National Transitional Council (NTC) at each of the three Libya Contact Group meetings held to date. In addition, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), met Mahmoud Jibril on 29 March 2011 at the London Conference on Libya. He also met the NTC Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil during his London visit on 12 May 2011 and in Benghazi on 4 June 2011.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what purposes UK arms exports to Israel may be used by the Israeli military in the West Bank and Gaza in accordance with the Consolidated EU and National Criteria. [66250]

Alistair Burt: The Government policy on the export of UK controlled military goods to all destinations is based on the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. All export applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, against the Consolidated Criteria, taking into account the circumstances prevailing at the time of the application and the stated end user and end use. The criteria make clear that the Government will not approve the export of controlled military goods where there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression, or where it would provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in the country of final destination.

Middle East: EU Action

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on a common policy on Palestine. [66179]

Alistair Burt: We discuss the Middle East Peace Process regularly at ministerial and official level with EU partners. We welcome the important progress the Palestinian Authority, in the West Bank, has made in building institutions of state.

We continue to believe that the best way to achieve a lasting solution that delivers a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel at peace with its neighbours is through a negotiated solution. The EU FAC conclusions of May 2011 set out the European policy on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and its hopes for a future Palestinian state.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122165.pdf

Montserrat: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assistance his Department has given to Montserrat for promoting environmental awareness. [66645]

Mr Lidington: The British Government are providing assistance for environmental projects through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) which is jointly funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This year projects to conserve the Centre Hills in Montserrat through the effective control of feral livestock populations (chickens, goats, cattle) and the second stage of a reef project are receiving OTEP funding.

Responsibility for environmental issues has been devolved to the governments of the Overseas Territories. It is therefore for the Government of Montserrat to promote awareness of the environment.

North Africa: Politics and Government

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department plans to provide for the European Endowment for Democracy in North Africa over the next 12 months. [66251]

Mr Lidington: The UK welcomes a renewed focus on civil society in the European Neighbourhood Policy. The idea of a European Endowment for Democracy has been raised in this context but no detailed proposal has yet been put forward.

Overseas Education: Scholarships

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions officials of his Department have had with the Department for Education on study-abroad scholarships. [67254]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials have had no recent discussions with the Department for Education on study-abroad scholarships.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to *(a)* the Government of Pakistan to combat terrorism and *(b)* the Pakistan Army in each of the last five years. [67036]

Alistair Burt: The UK has a strategic relationship with Pakistan, formalised in the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue. This includes a strand under the National Security Dialogue, which focuses on counter-terrorism and other security issues. Our intensive diplomatic efforts, bilaterally, multilaterally, and in concert with key partners such as the US, are complemented by a programme of counter-terrorism assistance to Pakistan. This includes supporting the development of strong institutions and machinery of Government. As part of this co-operation, we have assisted Pakistan's law enforcement and security forces, for example in improving their ability to counter improvised explosive devices (IEDs). However, due to the sensitive nature of counter terrorism projects, we are unable to provide detailed spend figures for our assistance programme.

Palestinians: Human Rights

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to uphold accountability for allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law arising from the Gaza conflict through full, fair and impartial investigations by the parties since January 2011. [66247]

Alistair Burt: The allegations about the conduct of both sides during the Gaza conflict are very serious. From the outset we have called for them to be properly and independently investigated by both sides.

We are committed to upholding accountability for allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law that arose from the Gaza conflict through full, fair and impartial investigations by the parties.

We will continue to press the parties on this point and follow the progress of investigations closely.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prosecutions for piracy have been brought by the Government as part of its operations off the coast of Somalia in the last 12 months. [66254]

Mr Lidington: In the last 12 months there have been no prosecutions of Somali pirates resulting from military action by the Royal Navy. However, 14 Somali pirate suspects are now sentenced or in custody in Kenyan prisons following handover by the UK.

South Sudan: Armed Forces

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support the demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers in southern Sudan. [66457]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK Government were a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the new mandate for the UN Mission in South Sudan, which states that the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLA should renew their action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, requests UNMISS to advise and assist South Sudan in this regard and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in UN system activities in the Republic of South Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children (OP 10 of UNSCR 1996). The UK also co-sponsored a new UN children and armed conflict resolution (UNSCR 1998), adopted on 12 July, and took the opportunity to emphasise the importance of UN action on this issue.

South Sudan: Christianity

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on measures taken to support and protect Christians in border regions following the independence of South Sudan. [66490]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has a mandate to protect civilians, irrespective of their religion, in the Republic of South Sudan under imminent threat of physical violence. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) is authorized to use force in protecting civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei. UNMISS is expected to report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) within four months of 9 July. UNISFA will report within 30 days of its mandate (27 June) to the UNSC.

South Sudan: Diplomatic Relations

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will establish diplomatic relations with South Sudan. [65160]

Mr Lidington: The British Government were among the first to recognise the Republic of South Sudan. We now have an embassy in Juba as well as a Department for International Development office. The British ambassador to South Sudan is already in Juba.

South Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposal of the US administration for a deadline of the end of July for the resolution of *(a)* oil sector issues, *(b)* the final status of Abyei and *(c)* all other outstanding issues relating to Sudan and South Sudan. [66786]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We urge Sudan and South Sudan to resolve all outstanding issues as soon as possible. We will continue to work closely with the US and other partners.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on future support for the UN mission in Sudan. [66126]

Mr Lidington: The British Government's view is that the presence of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is still needed in Southern Kordofan State. We have consistently made this view clear. However, UN peacekeeping operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict and the Government of Sudan insisted that UNMIS cease to operate in Sudan after 9 July. Security Council Resolution 1997, adopted on 11 July, therefore set in motion the withdrawal of UNMIS by 31 August 2011, while expressing the readiness of the Council to continue current UN operations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to seek the release of UN staff in Sudan. [66127]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), condemned the detentions of UNMIS staff in his statement of 28 June 2011. The UK permanent representative to the UN has also raised the detention of UN staff in his statements to the UN Security Council.

UK Membership of EU

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for the Government to maximise what it wants from the UK's engagement with Europe; and whether such objectives will include any opportunity to renegotiate the UK's relationship with the EU. [65695]

Mr Lidington: The coalition agreement sets out this Government's broad objectives for its relations with the European Union (EU). All Ministers seek to advance the interests of the United Kingdom through their engagement with the EU.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Harrier Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider deploying Harrier aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. [66661]

Nick Harvey: The Harrier fleet has been withdrawn from service and there are therefore no plans to deploy Harrier aircraft for operations in Afghanistan.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the RAF basing review will take into account his Department's obligations in respect of the New Employment Model; and if he will make a statement. [65572]

Nick Harvey: The New Employment Model is still in development and will be progressively implemented over the period 2015 to 2025. The potential implications are a key factor in the basing review work under way.

Armed Forces

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse per family of the forthcoming return of British troops from Germany. [64173]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence does not hold financial estimates on the costs of rebasing UK troops in Germany in the format requested. In depth work is currently being undertaken on how the rebasing of UK troops in Germany will be implemented. Before this work has been completed it would be too early to say what the overall financial impact will be.

Armed Forces: Children

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service children are in receipt of continuity education allowance. [66300]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* A total of 9,080 children of service personnel were beneficiaries of continuity of education allowance in financial year 2010-11.

Armed Forces: Education

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of recruits' time at the Army Foundation College Harrogate is allocated to academic study leading to recognised civilian qualifications; [66180]

(2) what percentage of 17-year-old recruits training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate were studying and subsequently achieved one or more A-levels in each of the last 10 years; in which subjects such A-levels were awarded; and how many such A-levels were awarded *(a)* in total and *(b)* at grade C or above in each such year; [66181]

(3) what percentage of recruits training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate achieved one or more BTEC, HNC and HND in each of the last 10 years; and in which subjects and at what grade each such qualification was obtained. [66182]

Nick Harvey: All recruits training at the Army Foundation College (AFC) undertake vocational qualifications. All soldiers are enrolled on a level 2 apprenticeship for IT users which consists of the level 2 iTQ diploma for IT users along with functional skills (FS) in English and maths at level 1. All those who achieve level 1 FS in English and maths during the programme have the additional opportunity to achieve those skills at level 2.

Recruits attend AFC for 50 weeks, during which 416 periods of 40 minutes each are allocated to the delivery and assessment of the apprenticeship.

Recruits at AFC do not undertake BTEC, HNC or HND qualifications. Nor do they undertake A levels.

Armed Forces: Officers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new entry officer cadets there were at *(a)* Dartmouth, *(b)* Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and *(c)* Cranwell in each of the last 10 years. [65573]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* The number of new entry officer cadets entering the service academies in each of the last 10 years is presented in the following tables:

	Intake									
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth	413	393	367	300	345	321	386	408	322	419

	Intake									
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	682	702	746	719	735	721	712	707	696	771
RAF College Cranwell	—	—	705	411	500	530	610	806	611	343

Notes:

1. Royal Navy figures are presented by calendar year. The Army and RAF data are presented by financial year.
2. RAF statistics of the intake to the RAF College Cranwell before 2003-04 are not available.

Defence Equipment: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how much of the *(a)* equipment support plan and *(b)* equipment plans budgets were spent in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Wales, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) Scotland in each of the last five years. [63863]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* Estimated direct Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure on equipment, including equipment support, for two of the last five years for which data are available for the UK, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are presented in the following table. These use a wider definition of equipment expenditure than employed in the MOD equipment and equipment support plans.

	£ million inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
United Kingdom	10,320	10,660
England	9,620	9,900
Scotland	520	510
Wales	120	30
Northern Ireland	60	120

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest £10 million

Estimates of MOD direct regional expenditure on equipment and non-equipment have not been produced since 2007-08 as they do not support MOD policy or operations. The MOD continues to report overall expenditure on procurement in the UK Defence Statistics, available on the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

This annual report presents the MOD procurement of goods and services in the UK by industry sector in Table 1.11, and estimates of aggregate MOD equipment procurement expenditure in Table 1.4.

Defence: Procurement

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on procurement from UK-based engineering companies. [65883]

Peter Luff: We will publish a White Paper later this year setting out our approach to acquiring the equipment that we need for our armed forces, and how we will support that equipment and its users. This will build on the public consultation following last December's 'Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security' Green Paper.

The Government are already taking effective steps to provide much greater support to UK defence exports and to make it easier for smaller enterprises to do business with the public sector, including with the Ministry of Defence.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of urgent operational requirements (UOR) for Libya; and to what equipment each UOR relates. [66684]

Peter Luff: To date, only two urgent operational requirements (UORs) have been approved for Libya.

The first was for the procurement of two Litening III Laser Designator Pods for use on Typhoon aircraft. Procurement of these pods was brought forward as a UOR due to the emergent need. However, they are being funded by the core equipment budget as the cost of £3.12 million had already been planned. The second was for the extension of the Digimap system that has been successfully used in Operation Herrick at a cost of £200,000 provided through the reserve.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of urgent operational requirements in each theatre of engagement since the conclusion of the strategic defence and security review. [66685]

Peter Luff: From 1 October 2010, no spending has been approved for urgent operational requirements (UORs) in the northern Gulf. For Libya, a total of £3.12 million has been approved on UOR equipment procurement, with funding from the core equipment budget and £0.2 million from the Treasury Reserve. For Afghanistan, a total of £645.5 million has been approved for UORs.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67243]

Peter Luff: The most recent period for which data are available is the 12 months to the end of March 2011. During that period, we estimate that the Ministry of Defence placed approximately 2,500 new procurement contracts directly with small and medium-sized enterprises. This number relates to contracts administered through our central system which excludes purchases made through the Government procurement card and miscellaneous transactions. It also excludes all contracts let by prime contractors through the supply chain.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft project has been to date; what estimate he has made of the final cost of the project; and what assessment he has made of the operational capability of the aircraft. [66686]

Peter Luff: The cost to the public purse to date for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft project is £53 million. That includes expenditure in the assessment phase and the current support phase cost.

The current forecast whole life cost is £12 billion; that includes the private finance initiative (PFI) contract cost, and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) costs such as fuel and RAF manpower that fall outside the PFI contract.

The flexibility within the contract allows the MOD to optimise value for money by exploiting the aircraft to the utmost. We are also investigating options with international partners on how best to utilise any spare capacity.

The first two Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft, Airbus A330-200, converted to military specification are currently undergoing ground and flight testing ahead of the first aircraft coming into service later this year. The A330-200 is a modern aircraft delivering high levels of capability, reliability, flexibility and economy. It will provide the air-to-air refuelling and the passenger air transport capability that is currently provided by the Royal Air Force's fleet of VC10 and TriStar aircraft. The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft will also be capable of providing aeromedical evacuation of personnel.

Harrier Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the most recent date was on which HMS Ark Royal went to sea with its Harrier aircraft; how many Harrier aircraft were on board; how many pilots of such aircraft were qualified to *(a)* land on and *(b)* take off from an aircraft carrier during (i) daylight and (ii) darkness; and how many sorties were flown; [66662]

(2) how many pilots of Harrier aircraft were qualified to *(a)* land on and *(b)* take off from an aircraft carrier during (i) daylight and (ii) darkness on 12 May 2011. [66663]

Nick Harvey: The most recent occasion on which HMS Ark Royal went to sea with Harrier GR9 aircraft embarked was on 19 November 2010. A total of four aircraft from 800 Naval Air Squadron and one (Fighter) Squadron Royal Air Force embarked the ship, and disembarked on 24 November, off the coast of Newcastle. No sorties were flown. Eight pilots were onboard the ship throughout this period: all were qualified to land and take off from the aircraft carrier during daylight and one was night qualified.

Following the withdrawal from service of the Harrier force announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, Joint Force Harrier disbanded on 15 December 2010. By 12 May 2011, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force ex-Harrier pilots had been transferred to undertake alternative positions within their respective services.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier aircraft have been sold since the conclusion of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; to whom; and for what price. [66712]

Peter Luff: No Harrier aircraft have been sold. Disposal options are currently being considered but no decisions have yet been made.

Italy: Armed Forces

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are currently stationed or deployed in Italy. [65662]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: The number of service personnel deployed or stationed in Italy as at 11 July 2011 are given in the following table.

	Number of service personnel[1]
Gioia Dell Colle, Italy	550
Trapani, Italy	150
Poggio Renatico, Italy	50
Naples, Italy	100

	Number of service personnel[1]
Other[2]	501

[1] Rounded to the nearest 50 personnel.
[2] Includes Defence Section personnel in support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other standing liaison officer roles.

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

Judicial Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in each cost category on representation and related costs in relation to judicial reviews relating to inquests in each year since 2006-07. [66088]

Nick Harvey: Since 2006-07, there have been two judicial reviews arising from inquests into the deaths of members of the armed forces, those involving the deaths of Private Jason Smith and Cpl Dewi Pritchard. The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s legal costs, spread over several years, totalled £308,812.00. In the Smith case the MOD also paid the claimant's costs of £456,729.87.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what exit strategy has been determined for British troops serving in Libya. [64870]

Nick Harvey: UK forces, under NATO command, have been at the forefront of Operation Unified Protector, enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973. The operation will continue until the Libyan regime ceases to use violence against its own people.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons eight ships were refused entry into Libyan ports under NATO's Operation Unified Protector. [64881]

Nick Harvey: From 31 March to 7 July 2011 the NATO Operation Unified Protector, working closely with the shipping industry, has denied nine vessels entry or exit from Libyan ports in order to enforce the arms embargo established by UN Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011), modified by UN Security Council Resolution 1973 (2011).

Mull of Kintyre Review

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 339-341, on the Mull of Kintyre review, from which departmental budget compensation will be paid. [67351]

Dr Fox: Compensation will be paid from the Ministry of Defence's centrally funded budget.

NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* number and *(b)* rank is of the UK personnel in HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. [65561][1]

Nick Harvey: The number and rank/grade of UK military and civilian personnel in the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is shown in the following table:

Military rank	*Number of personnel*
Lieutenant General	1
Major General	1
Brigadier	5
Colonel	11
Lieutenant Colonel	23
Major/Lieutenant Commander	76
Captain	25
Warrant Officer Class 2	19
Warrant Officer Class 1	6
Staff Sergeant	11
Sergeant	18
Corporal	27
Lance Corporal	13
Civilian grades	
C2	1
D	3
D (Military Support Function)	1
E1	9
E2	1
Industrial Skill Zone 2	1

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current UK obligation is to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. [65580]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 12 July 2011]*: The Strategic Defence and Security Review confirmed the pivotal role of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) as part of the UK's contribution to NATO. The UK provides the peacetime Headquarters, majority of staff, communications and, in addition when deployed, life-support and strategic/operational movement.

Just under 60% of the peacetime staff of HQ ARRC are from the UK and the UK's two combat divisions (1 (UK) Armoured Division and 3 (UK) Division) are assigned as subordinate formations. The UK also affiliates the majority of the ARRC's combat support and combat service support units.

Navy: Aircraft Carriers

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the length of time between completion and entry into service of the Royal Navy's second aircraft carrier. [66709]

Peter Luff: In general, Royal Navy ships undergo a series of sea trials to prove various aspects of the platform as they move from completion, which we have interpreted to mean contract acceptance date, into service. There is no set duration for this activity, it is tailored for each individual platform as requirements dictate.

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 11MC.]*

Investigations are under way to determine the optimum solution for converting one of the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers, including which ship should be converted. This work will consider the required trials package in each case and we expect to make our final decisions on carrier conversion in late 2012.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to spend on the Royal Navy's second aircraft carrier in each year it is not operational in order to enable future operational duties. [66710]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been taken as to which of the two Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, will be used as the operational carrier and which will be placed into extended readiness. The costs of retaining a carrier in extended readiness are being investigated as part of our study work into conversion. Firm decisions on the conversion are expected in late 2012.

Schools: Finance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in respect of which schools expenditure from the continuity of education allowance was incurred in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [66156]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tornado Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to reduce the number of Tornado aircraft in the period to May 2015. [66950]

Peter Luff: Two Tornado squadrons, XIII Squadron, based at RAF Marham, and No. 14 Squadron, based at RAF Lossiemouth, were selected by the Air Force Board Standing Committee for disbandment by 1 June 2011. We expect to further reduce Tornado aircraft numbers gradually to coincide with the expected run down of operations in Afghanistan and the build-up of our Typhoon force.

Trident

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 675W, on Trident, whether he has made an assessment of whether, if the funding allocated for the replacement of Trident were invested in other capabilities in the defence and security economy, including *(a)* intelligence services, *(b)* special forces, *(c)* the police and *(d)* other capabilities, a commensurate level of deterrence could be achieved. [66515]

Dr Fox: Our current analysis is that we cannot rule out the risk either that a major direct nuclear threat to the UK's vital interests will re-emerge or that new states will emerge that possess a more limited nuclear capability but nevertheless one that could pose a grave threat to our vital interests. We therefore see an enduring role for the UK's nuclear forces as an essential part of our capability for deterring nuclear-armed opponents. As stated in the *2006 White Paper "The Future of the* United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) conventional capabilities cannot have the same deterrent effect as nuclear weapons.

This remains Government policy.

Type 42 Destroyer

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the costs to his Department are of maintaining the Type 42 Destroyer fleet beyond its intended service life until the delivery of the Type 45 Destroyer. [66917]

Peter Luff: The cost of extending the Type 42 Destroyer fleet lifespan beyond its intended service life to coincide with the delivery of the six Type 45 Destroyers is estimated to be £195 million. This includes deep maintenance, planned maintenance, unplanned maintenance, manpower, spares and equipment.

As confirmed by the National Audit Office in their 2009 report: Providing Anti-Air Warfare Capability: the type 45 Destroyer, this is not an additional cost to the Department because operating costs would have been incurred for the Type 45 destroyers if they had been delivered to their original timescales.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to the public purse is of maintaining the Type 42 Destroyer fleet over its intended service life. [66681]

Peter Luff: The cost of maintaining the Type 42 Destroyer fleet of fourteen ships over its service life, from 1978 to 2013, is estimated to be £709 million.

This estimate does not include running costs, naval base expenditure or disposal costs. Costs between 1978 and 1998 have been estimated using historical data on a pro-rata basis, as a more accurate estimate could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Costs from 1999 onwards are the final contract values for support maintenance. There are no further planned support periods after March 2011, so no costs were forecast after this date.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* hours flown and *(b)* strikes by unmanned aircraft there have been in Afghanistan in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2011 to date. [66473]

Nick Harvey: The numbers of hours flown by UK remotely piloted air systems (RPAS) and unmanned air systems (UAS) in Afghanistan, as at 1 July 2011, are shown in the following table. The UK did not have any RPAS or UAS deployed in Afghanistan prior to 2007.

Period (inclusive)	Flying hours (to the nearest hundred) Reaper RPAS	Hermes 450 UAS	Desert Hawk 3 UAS
2007	300	1,700	0
2008	2,800	7,300	1,800
2009	4,600	9,800	2,800
2010	10,300	14,700	4,300
January to June 2011	5,600	6,300	2,500

Reaper, operated by the Royal Air Force, is the UK's only armed RPAS. It entered operational service in October 2007 in Afghanistan. The primary role of the Reaper system operated by the UK remains intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance but they have had the capability to employ air-to-ground weapons since May 2008. The numbers of weapons used by the Reaper remotely piloted air system in Afghanistan are shown in the following table.

Period (inclusive)	Number of weapons used
May 2008 to December 2008	29
January 2009 to December 2009	46
January 2010 to December 2010	73
January 2011 to 4 July 2011	30

Use of force remains closely regulated and the avoidance of civilian casualties is paramount. We carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk to civilians.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Programme

22. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress he has made on delivering the Work programme. [66551]

Chris Grayling: DWP launched the Work programme nationally in June. Just over 12 months from the start of policy design, all providers throughout Great Britain are now delivering personalised employment support to people at risk of long-term unemployment.

Employment: Colne Valley

23. **Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are available to him to encourage local companies in Colne Valley constituency to assist young people to enter employment. [66552]

Chris Grayling: In Colne Valley Jobcentre Plus has been working successfully with local employers to promote new ways of helping young people into employment and five employers have already signed up to provide work experience placements.

We are looking to Work programme providers to work closely with employers to help longer-term unemployed young people into sustained employment.

Disability Living Allowance

24. **Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his review of the mobility component of disability living allowance will conclude. [66553]

Maria Miller: We have announced that we would not remove the DLA mobility component from people in residential care from October 2012 and would consider this issue as part of our wider reform to introduce personal independence payment from April 2013, which is exactly what we are doing.

It is only right that we consider carefully the needs of this particular group of people to understand their current circumstances before we come to any final decision on how best to address their needs. This will allow us to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [66532]

Chris Grayling: In May 2011 there were 118,655 single parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission expects to publish its business plan for April 2011 to March 2012. [65696]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission expects to publish its business plan for April 2011 to March 2012. [65696].

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Delivery Plan 2011/12 was published on the Commission's website on 11 July 2011:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/Delivery-plan-11-12.pdf

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the number of parents owing money to the Child Support Agency who opt for self-employed status. [65476]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the number of parents owing money to the Child Support Agency who opt for self-employed status. [65476]

The March 2011 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics available at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0311.html

states that in 8% of total live cases, the non-resident parent is self-employed.

This figure includes cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems and excludes cases administered off the main computer system. By applying the 8% to the published caseload of 1,145,700 which includes off-system cases, approximately 91,800 cases involve self-employed non-resident parents.

Of the 91,800 live cases where the non-resident parent is self-employed, approximately 70,300 cases owe outstanding child maintenance to either the parent with care or the Secretary of State.

It should be noted that employment status is the latest employment status recorded on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems and may not be fully up to date.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the impact of websites that promote self-employed status as a mechanism for avoiding or reducing payments to the Child Support Agency. [65477]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the impact of websites that promote self-employed status as a mechanism for avoiding or reducing payments to the Child Support Agency. [65477]

The Commission does monitor external websites that provide information about child maintenance, and no specific trends have been identified with regards to promoting self-employment as a means of avoiding or reducing maintenance payments.

If a non-resident parent is self-employed, they still should pay child maintenance in the normal way. Self-employed earnings are usually taken from the self-assessment return that is submitted to HM Revenue and Customs, or from a tax calculation notice. This is consistent with the policy that, in a similar manner as for employed earners, the basis of the child maintenance liability of a self-employed earner is their taxable earnings.

The Commission also has the power to request details of, and statements from, any accounts held by deposit takers in the name of the non-resident parent, including bank and building society accounts. This information can also be obtained from accountants, companies or partnerships with or for whom the non-resident parent works, a face-to-face interview, an inspector's visit, or a direct request to HM Revenue and Customs for self-assessment details where all other means to obtain the information have failed.

Ultimately, if a non-resident parent fails to provide their earnings information, and it cannot be obtained through the methods outlined above, they may have both a default maintenance decision imposed by the Commission and a fine imposed by the courts. A default maintenance decision is a standard rate based on the number of children the non-resident parent must pay child maintenance for and is also fully enforceable.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases within the Child Support Agency which have a nil liability relate to children who are *(a)* aged between 0 and five years, *(b)* aged between five and 10 years, *(c)* aged between 10 and 15 years and *(d)* aged more than 15 years; and how many such cases have been subject to a change of circumstances review since the child maintenance liability was first assessed. [65698]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases within the Child Support Agency which have a nil liability are (a) aged between 0 and five years, (b) aged between five and 10 years, (c) aged between 10 and 15 years and (d) aged more than 15 years; and how many such cases have been subject to a change of circumstances review since the child maintenance liability was first assessed. [65698]

The latest case figures published in the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) show that there are 283,900 nil liability cases in the quarter ending March 2011. The latest version of the QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/qss/qss-mar-2011.pdf

The table below shows the age of these cases as at the end of March 2011 measured from the application start date of the case. The table also shows the number of cases which have had a subsequent assessment carried out following the initial assessment.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

	Subsequent assessment		
Age of case	*Yes*	*No*	*Total*
Less than five years	22,200	28,400	50,600
Five-10 years	48,200	24,300	72,500

	Subsequent assessment		
Age of case	*Yes*	*No*	*Total*
10-15 years	91,200	14,800	106,000
15 years plus	50,400	4,000	54,400
Unknown	0	400	400
Total	212,000	71,900	283,900

Notes:
1. Figures include cases administered off the main computer system.
2. Age of cases administered off-system measured from application start date of the case as recorded on CS2 computer system prior to the case being progressed off system.
3. Cases with an unknown age are those cases administered off system which do not have an application start date recorded on the CS2 computer system.
4. A proportion of cases categorised as not having a subsequent assessment may actually have had a subsequent assessment recorded off system. This figure is therefore overstated.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the five organisations to which the Child Maintenance Options Service most frequently refers callers through its helpline in instances where they need additional information and advice. [65699]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will estimate the five organisations to which the Child Maintenance Option's Service most frequently refers callers through its helpline in instances where they need additional information and advice. [65699].

The Child Maintenance Options Service currently signposts, on average, over 25% of callers to other organisations for further information and advice

Aside from the Child Support Agency, the five organisations that callers are most frequently referred to are Gingerbread, Community Legal Advice, Shelterline, HM Revenue and Customs and Citizens Advice.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67342]

Chris Grayling: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is a cross-Government initiative.

As part of the review the Department for Work and Pensions is considering areas of regulation that affect employers and their employees. My Department has:

commissioned an independent review of elements of its workplace pension reform;

launched the joint DWP/BIS independent sickness absence review; and

launched the Löfstedt Review into health and safety legislation.

The Department will also be looking at ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge. Relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward all the ongoing workstreams.

Credit Unions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on provision of advice to the public on the use of credit unions. [66708]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions supports organisations like credit unions that offer affordable financial services to people who would otherwise be unable to access them; helping people to save, open bank accounts, pay off debts and learn to manage their finances. Subject to a successful feasibility study which concludes in October 2011, a new modernisation and expansion fund of up to £73 million over the next four years will support those organisations which are ready and prepared to expand their service to a million more people.

DWP advisers provide benefit recipients with impartial information and guidance, signposting customers to organisations such as credit unions, where this is appropriate.

Departmental Manpower

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff his Department and its agencies employ at each pay band. [66798]

Chris Grayling: The number of staff employed by the Department and its agencies at each pay band at 31 March 2011, the latest published information, is set out in the following tables.

For comparison purposes the tables show staffing information in headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE) format.

Table 1: DWP staffing by business and grade as at 31 March 2011

Headcount[1]

	Pay band									
Business area	*A/AA*	*B/AO*	*C/EO*	*D/HEO*	*E/SEO*	*F/Grade 7*	*G/Grade 6*	*SCS*	*Not recorded*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	2,135	39,884	33,437	4,711	1,122	379	143	39	3	81,853
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	1,262	7,570	4,721	718	299	111	60	19	1	14,761
Shared Services	333	2,901	839	293	135	67	19	10	1	4,598
Corporate Centre	51	508	2,518	2,224	1,216	1,051	460	189	16	8,233

Table 1: DWP staffing by business and grade as at 31 March 2011

Headcount[1]

Business area	*Pay band* *A/AA*	*B/AO*	*C/EO*	*D/HEO*	*E/SEO*	*F/Grade 7*	*G/Grade 6*	*SCS*	*Not recorded*	*Total*
DWP total	3,781	50,863	41,515	7,946	2,772	1,608	682	257	21	109,445

[1] Total count of staff based on each employee counting as 1.

Notes:

1. Staff numbers derived from monthly Point in Time Extract from the Department's personnel system and are consistent with Office for National Statistics definitions.
2. Not recorded refers to a small number of cases where the grade was not recorded on the payroll record at the time the data were extracted from the Department's personnel system.
3. Pay band abbreviations:

A/AA—Administrative Assistant
B/AO—Administrative Officer
C/EO—Executive Officer
D/HEO—Higher Executive Officer
S/SEO—Senior Executive Officer
SCS—Senior Civil Service.

Table 2: DWP staffing by business and grade as at 31 March 2011

Full-time equivalent[1]

Business area	*Pay band* *A/AA*	*B/AO*	*C/EO*	*D/HEO*	*E/SEO*	*F/Grade 7*	*G/Grade 6*	*SCS*	*Not recorded*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	1,854	34,839	30,090	4,510	1,091	372	141	39	3	72,939
Pension Disability and Carers Service	1,086	6,680	4,212	685	289	109	59	19	1	13,139
Shared Services	276	2,525	759	274	128	65	19	10	1	4,057
Corporate Centre	46	469	2,365	2,121	1,169	1,018	440	185	16	7,828
DWP total	3,262	44,512	37,426	7,590	2,678	1,564	658	252	20	97,963

[1] Headcount converted to full-time equivalent.

Notes:

1. Staff numbers derived from monthly Point in Time Extract from the Department's personnel system and are consistent with Office for National Statistics definitions.
2. Full-time equivalent (FTE) figures may not sum due to FTE rounding.
3. Not recorded refers to a small number of cases where the grade was not recorded on the payroll record at the time the data were extracted from the Department's personnel system.

Pay band abbreviations:
A/AA—Administrative Assistant
B/AO—Administrative Officer
C/EO—Executive Officer
D/HEO—Higher Executive Officer
S/SEO—Senior Executive Officer
SCS—Senior Civil Service.

Derby

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he last visited Derby in an official capacity. [65793]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), attended regional Cabinet in Derby on Monday 7 March 2011.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the 50,000 households liable for the household benefit cap who are not to be subject to work search requirements as a condition of the benefit. [67134]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for those who may be subject to work search requirements, as opposed to those who may not.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many tenants of housing associations and co-operatives in each local authority area in Scotland receive full or partial housing benefit; and what proportion of such tenants in each such area have their payments made directly to the landlord. [67133]

Steve Webb: Information on housing benefit recipients in receipt of full and partial housing benefit is not available.

The proportion of tenants of registered social landlords and claiming housing benefit in each local authority area in Scotland that have their payments made directly to the landlord is shown in the following table.

Payment destination for tenants of registered social landlords claiming housing benefit in Scottish local authorities

Percentage

	Payment destination *Direct to claimant*	*Direct to landlord*	*All*
Aberdeen City	11	89	100
Aberdeenshire	14	86	100

Payment destination for tenants of registered social landlords claiming housing benefit in Scottish local authorities

Percentage

	Payment destination		
	Direct to claimant	*Direct to landlord*	*All*
Angus	17	83	100
Argyll and Bute	8	92	100
Clackmannanshire	5	95	100
Dumfries and Galloway	3	97	100
Dundee City	7	93	100
East Ayrshire	3	97	100
East Dunbartonshire	7	93	100
East Lothian	18	82	100
East Renfrewshire	14	86	100
Edinburgh, City of	8	92	100
Eilean Siar	3	97	100
Falkirk	6	94	100
Fife	9	91	100
Glasgow City	1	99	100
Highland	8	92	100
Inverclyde	3	97	100
Midlothian	9	91	100
Moray	14	86	100
North Ayrshire	2	98	100
North Lanarkshire	3	97	100
Orkney Islands	15	85	100
Perth and Kinross	13	87	100
Renfrewshire	3	97	100
Scottish Borders	10	90	100
Shetland Islands	12	88	100
South Ayrshire	3	97	100
South Lanarkshire	4	96	100
Stirling	10	90	100
West Dunbartonshire	3	97	100
West Lothian	8	92	100
All	4	96	100

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

2. Row percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

3. Cases with unknown payment destination are excluded from the analysis. This affects a relatively small number of cases.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract April 2011

Industrial Health and Safety: Offshore Workers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Executive in safeguarding oil and gas workers in the British sector of the North sea; and if he will make a statement. [66307]

Chris Grayling: The operators of offshore installations have the primary responsibility for management and control of risks to oil and gas workers in the British sector of the North sea. Regulatory oversight of this is a priority area for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). in January 2011, the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee reported that the UK has high offshore regulatory standards and both the European Commission and the US Presidential Commission Report on the Gulf of Mexico incident have stated that the UK regime is a good framework for others to follow.

Statistical trends indicate that injury rates and hydrocarbon releases offshore are declining. However, the hostile nature of the working environment and the ageing nature of the UK's offshore installations mean that there is no room for complacency by the industry or the regulator. HSE's offshore inspection and enforcement activities include targeted programmes of work on asset integrity, (which address issues about managing ageing plant and extending the life of offshore infrastructure), improving the offshore safety culture and effective industry leadership. HSE is challenging the industry to do more to tackle hydrocarbon releases.

There is also currently an independently-led, review of the UK offshore oil and gas regulatory regime in the light of the lessons from the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. This is due to report later this year.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate likely changes in trends in the number of staff employed by Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain on fixed-term contracts over the next three financial years; [65945]

(2) what changes in trends in the number of staff employed by Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain on fixed-term contracts there have been over the last three financial years; [65946]

(3) how many staff are employed by Jobcentre Plus on fixed-term contracts in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain. [65947]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: if he will estimate likely changes in trends in the number of staff employed by Jobcentre Plus in (a) Glasgow (b) Scotland and (c) Great Britain on fixed-term contracts over the next three financial years.

What changes in trends in the number of staff employed by Jobcentre Plus in (a) Glasgow (b) Scotland and (c) Great Britain on fixed-term contracts there have been over the last three financial years.

How many staff are employed by Jobcentre Plus on fixed-term contracts in (a) Glasgow (b) Scotland and (c) Great Britain. These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In response to Question 1, Jobcentre Plus recruited extra people on fixed term contracts to address the impact of the economic downturn. It was anticipated that increased workloads would be temporary and it was always planned to reduce numbers as the growth in unemployment slowed. Jobcentre Plus continues to keep its workloads and staffing levels under close scrutiny. That includes the need to extend Fixed Term Appointments (FTAs). At this point, Jobcentre Plus does not plan to recruit further FTAs and expects to release the majority of existing FTAs during 2011/12 as they reach the end of their fixed term contracts. This will be kept under review.

In response to Question 2, the following table shows the trend in the numbers of staff employed on FTA contracts in Jobcentre Plus by taking the position at March in each of the last three financial years. This data is taken from our internal systems and the numbers based on the latest information we hold. Some people will have worked in more than one period and will therefore be counted in both. The information is set out on a staff in post basis, i.e. employees are counted as a single unit irrespective of the hours they work.

The changes in numbers between years reflect the initial increase in workloads as a result of the economic downturn and the subsequent reductions as workloads declined.

When we report against Glasgow it is on the basis of the operational district.

	31 March 2011	*31 March 2010*	*31 March 2009*
Glasgow	228	368	38
Scotland	727	1,415	216
Jobcentre Plus (National)	7,273	13,617	1,890

In response to Question 3, the information shown under the column headed '31 March 2011' in the above table was the number of staff employed by Glasgow, Scotland and Jobcentre Plus nationally on fixed term contracts as at March 2011.

National Insurance: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to foreign nationals in each local authority area in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [64524]

Chris Grayling: The information requested has been placed in the Library for both Houses.

Pensioners

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve the living standards of pensioners. [66940]

Steve Webb: We have restored the earnings link for the basic state pension and given a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, price increases (as measured by the consumer prices index) or 2.5%. The restoration of the earnings link and the triple guarantee will benefit both existing and future pensioners by providing a more generous state pension, giving a solid financial foundation from the state, which is essential as part of the pensions system.

We are protecting key support for older people: free eye tests; free prescription charges; free bus passes; free television licences for the over 75s; and winter fuel payments will remain exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government. We have permanently increased the cold weather payment from £8.50 to £25.

We are introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions from 2012. This is a central element of our strategy to reinvigorate private pension savings and aims to harness inertia and bring about a change in people's behaviour in saving for retirement. We expect this to radically increase the number of people saving into a pension and to lead to between 5 million and 8 million people newly saving or saving more in all forms of workplace pension schemes.

We are looking at options for delivering a simpler and fairer state pension which rewards those who do the right thing and save for their retirement and is sustainable for future generations. Two options for reform of the state pension were published in a Green Paper "A State Pension for the 21st Century". The consultation period ended on 24 June. We are currently considering the consultation responses and will reply in due course.

Living standards are about more than income. A range of policies has also been put in place to improve the lives of people over 60 years of age. The Government provided £1 million in 2010-11 to fund Active at 60 Community Agents to help people who are at most risk of longer-term loneliness and social isolation remain active, independent and positively engaged with society following retirement. In 2010 we introduced Ageing Well, a new programme designed to support local authorities to improve their services for older people.

Pensioners: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average monetary value of benefits in kind provided by his Department to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in respect of (i) NHS services, (ii) social services, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation, home repairs and improvement grants and (vi) other services in each year since 2005. [65621]

Steve Webb: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally by a number of Government Departments. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) NHS services

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age. Detailed information on prescription charges is not held in the format requested.

Free NHS sight tests were made available to people aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Information on the average value of NHS sight tests provided to people aged 60 and over within the area of the former York and Selby PCT is only available on a consistent basis for one year 2005-06 and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over(£)*
2005-06	25,057	460,798

The PCT was restructured in October 2006 and no equivalent data for 2006-07 are available. Information for 2007-08 to 2009-10 is available for the North Yorkshire and York PCT area and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over	Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over (£)
2007-08	88,428	1,708,429
2008-09	90,380	1,789,524
2009-10	89,805	1,819,449

There is no automatic entitlement for pensioners to NHS optical vouchers or free dental treatment. Individuals may qualify for these benefits if they are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, or if they have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the NHS low income scheme. Information on the value of such NHS services provided to patients of pensionable age who qualify on the basis of their personal economic circumstances is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Social Services

The following table shows the gross current expenditure by York council on social services for people aged 65 or over from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Gross current expenditure[1] by York Council on older people (aged 65 or over)

Year (1 April to 31 March)	£000 Gross current expenditure
2005-06	27,500
2006-07	27,600
2007-08	27,600
2008-09	30,800
2009-10	32,439

[1] Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.

Notes:

1. From 2002-03 onwards, the data include clients who transferred to council with social services responsibilities (CSSR) support on 8 April 2002, who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme.

2. From 2003-04, additional funding was made available to CSSRs via the Supporting People grant.

Source:

R03 and PSS EX1 returns

(iii) Travel Concessions

The statutory minimum travel concession, introduced in April 2008, gives those of pensionable aged and eligible disabled people free off-peak local bus travel in any part of England. The Government provide around £1 billion a year to fund the concession.

Travel concession schemes are provided through local authorities, which have flexibility to enhance their schemes to offer more than the statutory minimum, so there are local variations in what is offered and take-up of concessionary travel also varies from one area to another. Therefore it is not possible to quantify the value of the benefit in kind in a specific local authority area.

(iv) Television Licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the following table, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over receiving winter fuel payments in York local authority. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

York local authority area

	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over	TV licences fees (£	
		Colour	Black and White
2005-06	11,930	126.50	42.00
2006-07	12,070	131.50	44.00
2007-08	12,240	135.50	45.50
2008-09	12,180	139.50	47.00
2009-10	12,290	142.50	48.00

(v) Insulation

The Warm Front scheme is one of the Government's key programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector in England. Warm Front provides grants for heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. The following table displays the number of pensioner households that have received Warm Front assistance in the York local authority area since 2005, and the average spend on each of those households.

	Number of single pensioner households assisted in York	Average spend per single pensioner household assisted (£)	Number of two pensioners households assisted in York	Average spend per two pensioner household assisted (£)
2005-06	199	778.45	102	765.08
2006-07	364	753.92	252	657.25
2007-08	390	1,020.33	297	998.20
2008-09	199	1,741.24	155	1,612.50
2009-10	142	1,639.09	103	1,542.74

In addition, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), an obligation on energy suppliers to deliver carbon savings in the household sector, is the primary existing driver of household energy saving measures—especially insulation. To ensure an equitable distribution of the benefits, the scheme requires a proportion of the carbon savings be achieved in the homes of 'priority' lower income households (aged 70 and over or on certain means tested benefits). In the first two years of the scheme, between April 2008 and March 2010, 3,861 priority group households in York benefited from subsidised loft and/or cavity wall insulation under the scheme. CERT runs to December 2012.

Pensions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who would be affected by bringing forward by two years the date of the planned increase in the state pension. [66718]

Steve Webb: Bringing forward by two years the increase in the state pension age to 67, from 2036 to 2034, would affect 1.8 million persons.

Personal Income

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what uses his Department has made of the annual survey of hours and earnings data produced by the Office of National Statistics in the last three years. [65290]

Chris Grayling: The Department draws on both longitudinal and cross-sectional information from the annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE) for a number of purposes. Key uses include:

helping to inform workplace pension reform, for example as part of the Making Automatic Enrolment Work (MAEW) review;

monitoring trends in employee pension provision, membership and contributions;

informing impact and equality assessments;

helping to forecast state pension expenditure and caseloads;

modelling the impact of policy changes on the pension landscape;

supporting the evaluation of workplace pension reforms;

helping to inform policy on sickness absence from work and statutory maternity payments.

Prisons: Females

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women with children aged *(a)* up to two, *(b)* between three and five, *(c)* between five and 10, *(d)* between 10 and 15 and *(e)* between 15 and 18 years have been in prison for (i) up to six months, (ii) between six months and one year, (iii) between one and two years, (iv) between two and six years and (v) more than six years in each of the last five years. [67017]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Details on the children on the children of prisoners are not routinely collected, and limited disproportionate cost by analysing information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on linking benefit payments to education training programmes. [66080]

Chris Grayling: From 1 August a recipient of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance (work-related activity group) in England may be required by a Jobcentre Plus adviser, or by a provider working on behalf of Jobcentre Plus, to attend work-related education training programmes or careers advice. Failure to attend without good reason would lead to a benefit sanction. This is not the case at present. The change is intended to improve take-up and completion of work-related training so that lack of basic work skills do not hinder the claimant's opportunities in the labour market, thus enabling the claimant to find a job and keep it as soon as possible.

Jobcentre Plus advisers and providers will take into account a claimant's circumstances and skills needs and only consider a mandatory referral to training activity which will aid the claimant's movement into work. Before a mandatory referral to training can be made, the skills provider must have confirmed that they are able and willing to accept the claimant on to an appropriate course. Units of accredited training will be offered as well as longer courses and the content of the course will depend upon the identified job goals and skills need of the claimant.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 659W, on social security benefits, on what estimate of learner numbers his Department has made funding decisions for the number of people on active benefit who have skills needs. [67137]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not make funding decisions with respect to training for people on active benefits who have skills needs. In England, funding decisions are taken by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In Scotland and Wales, these decisions are a devolved policy area. The Department for Work and Pensions works with the relevant skills funding bodies to ensure that appropriate support is in place for benefit recipients across Great Britain.

The Department for Work and Pensions funds the Work programme, which is delivered through contracted providers. Work programme providers are paid for getting people into work and keeping them there, which means there are strong incentives for delivery partners to provide skills training where that support would help a customer move into work and keep them in work. The Department has not specified what level of funding within the Work programme should be allocated to skills training and it will be for providers to decide what support is needed.

The meaning of the term active benefit has been taken as that given in the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 610W, on social security benefits.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 659W, on social security benefits, how many people in receipt of benefits and entitled to fee remission for education and training will cease to be so eligible from August 2011. [67138]

Chris Grayling: People in receipt of active benefits will see no change in their eligibility for fee remission for employment-related training from 1 August 2011.

From 1 August, people in England in receipt of other benefits will be able to receive full fee remission for training for fully-funded basic literacy and numeracy training up to a first full NVQ level two, while young adults aged 19- to 24-years-old will be able to receive full fee remission for a first full NVQ level three qualification. They will not receive full fee remission for other courses. The number of people on these other benefits who would normally undertake training in other courses could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The meaning of the term active benefit has been taken as that given in the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 610W, on social security benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether payments relating to local welfare assistance in Scotland will be made from a fixed financial allocation or will be demand-led. [66829]

Steve Webb: The programme funding for the new local welfare assistance, including in Scotland, will be cash limited.

Details of the funding are set out in the Government response to the call for evidence "Local support to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses" which was published on 23 June.

The Government response is available in the Library and can be accessed on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/local-support-replace-ccg-cl.shtml

Unemployment

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average cost to the public purse of a job loss or redundancy *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Derby and *(c)* in the east midlands. [65791]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

There are always redundancies, job losses and separations. For example, seasonally adjusted figures from the Labour Force Survey indicated that there were 144,000 redundancies in the UK in March to May 2011. The number of redundancies has fallen substantially since the recession.

It is not possible to estimate the overall average cost to the public purse because it will depend on the state of the economy, whether the redundant person takes up a benefit and how long they remain on benefit before they leave—either to go into work or another destination. For example, even though there were 144,000 redundancies, overall employment during the period March to May 2011 rose—by 50,000—because the numbers moving into jobs exceeded the numbers that left—including those made redundant.

There is, however, a direct cost of redundancy to the public purse. Businesses are required by law to make statutory redundancy payments. Businesses bear the costs of these redundancy payments except in cases where the business becomes insolvent. In such cases the Insolvency Service bears the costs of the statutory redundancy payments. The redundancy payments made by the service to ex employees of insolvent employers during the period Apr 2009 to March 2010 amounted to £270,012,000.

Universal Credit

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the impact assessment in respect of universal credit, what assumptions his Department made in respect of *(a)* take-up of entitlement, *(b)* level of entitlement, *(c)* child care costs and levels of support for child care costs and *(d)* other factors in making its estimate that 350,000 children and over 600,000 working age adults would be lifted out of poverty as a result of the introduction of universal credit. [66178]

Maria Miller: The estimate of numbers lifted out of poverty are based on an assessment of the impact of universal credit using DWP's Policy Simulation Model. This model uses data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS) and uprates incomes and demographics to the relevant year using projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility. The model is able to assess entitlement to universal credit, because of the wide range of personal characteristics reported to the FRS by respondents.

The model allows for the fact that currently not all benefits or tax credits are taken up. In the future it is assumed that those currently taking up some, but not all of their benefit entitlements will take up in full under universal credit; and of those taking up none of their current entitlement, around half will do so under the new system.

The impact assessment did not include any impacts from changing child care payment arrangements, as the policy design was not finalised at that time. These impacts will be included in a future iteration of the universal credit impact assessment, once the relevant policy announcements have been made.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of housing benefit staff that may be made redundant under proposals to introduce universal credit; and what his estimate is of the cost of such redundancies to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* private contractors. [66969]

Steve Webb: It is still too early to say how many staff and what skills and experience will be required for universal credit. Decisions about TUPE and redundancy cannot be made until there is much more definition around the specific roles required to deliver the new universal credit. Although it is anticipated that fewer staff will be required compared to the legacy benefits, it is too early to say which staff and organisations will be affected. The impact on local authority staff will be affected by the design of the council tax benefit replacement, and decisions about the delivery model for universal credit.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many housing benefit staff employed by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* contractors he expects will transfer to his Department under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 to administer universal credit; [66970]

(2) how many staff will be needed to assess housing costs following the introduction of universal credit. [66971]

Steve Webb: The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. It also states that we will continue to pay housing benefit to working age customers until we can migrate them successfully on to universal credit, currently expected to be by October 2017. We have yet to settle on the precise details of how the transition will work, and the effects on housing benefits staff. This approach will ensure an orderly transition and that we have people with relevant skills and experience to support claimants both in work and out of work, as they migrate to the new credit.

We will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of local housing offices of the introduction of universal credit. [66972]

Steve Webb: The provision of housing advice and support is the responsibility of local authorities who can choose to configure their services in the ways best suited to the needs of their communities. Decisions about the number of local housing offices in the future will be a decision for them.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the assets and systems currently used to provide the housing benefit service will transfer from local authorities, housing associations and contractors to his Department under proposals for the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [66973]

Steve Webb: The systems and processes for universal credit are still under development and the requirements will depend on future delivery options. As many local authorities use the same assets and systems to provide council tax and housing benefit, decisions about the assets and systems cannot be made until the future design of the council tax benefit is known.

Vacancies: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies advertised in Jobcentre Plus branches in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* south London and *(c)* Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available. [65563]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies advertised in Jobcentre Plus branches in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (b) south London and (c) Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available.

On 8 July 2011, there were 317 vacancies advertised at Bexleyheath Jobcentre Plus.

On the same date there were 3,344 vacancies advertised in Jobcentre Plus offices within the South London District of Jobcentre Plus and a total of 15,049 vacancies advertised with Jobcentre Plus offices throughout the London region.

Please note there may be more than one job per vacancy advertised.

Welfare State: Reform

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the (1) conclusions and recommendations of the report by Sheffield Hallam university on the effects on Wales of the Government's proposed welfare reforms; [65466]

(2) impact of his proposed welfare reforms on people in Wales. [65467]

Chris Grayling: The Welfare Reform Bill, introduced in the Commons on 16 February 2011, makes the most fundamental reforms to the social security system for 60 years. It will deliver a system that is simpler, fairer and ensures that work always pays.

Alongside our programme of reform which will help move more people closer to the labour market, the Government have taken action to stimulate a sustained recovery in the economy and labour market built around private sector investment, enterprise, a simplified tax regime and the removal of unnecessary regulations that stifle growth.

The latest labour market statistics show that around 500,000 private sector jobs have been created in the past year. The figures also show that in the UK employment has increased by over 300,000 and in Wales there are 31,000 more people in work than last year.

No separate analysis of the Sheffield Hallam report has been undertaken. However, a full impact assessment of our reform programme, including equality impact assessments, was published alongside the Bill.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had on the effects on the promotion of collaborative working on strategic decision-making of revoking the statutory guidance, Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities. [66200]

Robert Neill: Much of the statutory guidance was redundant following the dismantling of Local Area Agreements, revision of Best Value guidance and the Secretary of State's decision to repeal the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy.

Revocation of this guidance and associated duties enables local authorities to innovate and work in new ways to serve their local communities. We want to encourage authorities and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary groups in the design and running of public services. In this context, we recently consulted on light touch statutory guidance on the Best Value duty setting out some reasonable expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions. The consultation closed on 14 June and we expect to provide a Government response and publish final guidance this summer.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; [67151]

(2) how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67220]

Robert Neill: Officials within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from other Departments to discuss a range of matters.

Country Parks: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the sale by Gloucestershire county council of a country park to the Watermark Group; and if he will make a statement. [67083]

Robert Neill: We are not aware of any representations on this matter.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has issued any guidance to *(a)* local authorities or *(b)* other bodies on the generation of low-carbon energy on their estates. [65413]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

In March, DECC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Group. The Local Government Group believes that local authorities now have the tools and the appetite to deliver low carbon solutions on their estates and across the local area. Many of these tools have been developed in the ongoing partnership between DECC and LGG.

The Local Carbon Framework (LCF) pilot programme worked with nine LA areas (30 authorities in total) to identify what works at what spatial level and begin to develop templates for action on carbon for all LAs. The results of this programme will be widely disseminated to local authorities by October.

In addition, the Community Energy Online (CEO) portal, which DECC launched in November 2010 points to case studies and guidance on how to develop a renewable energy project both for local authorities and for their communities. DECC is also developing a national heat map, which will be available through CEO to enable local authorities to identify heat demand in their areas and develop renewable solutions such as district heating.

The Climate Change Skills fund within the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has also provided training for local authority staff and councillors including on community engagement on renewable energy, Plan LoCaL, and events are now being delivered locally across the country.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66762]

Robert Neill: The carbon dioxide emissions from the Department for Communities and Local Government in June 2010 and June 2011 are as follows:

	Tonnes CO_2
June 2010	680
June 2011	496

The Department has exceeded the Prime Minister's target of reducing carbon emissions by 10% in 2010-11, achieving a reduction of 18%, and is now focused on the Government's further agenda to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2015.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62995]

Robert Neill: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in the annual written ministerial statement by the Department of Transport, details of which can be found within the Library of the House. A written ministerial statement covering the financial year 2010-11 for all Departments will be published in due course.

For ease of reference I have tabulated costs relating to this Department. Further to my written answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 977-78W, this includes revised costs of ministerial cars used by DCLG Ministers between 12 May 2010 and 31 March 2011 based on updated management information. This represents a significant reduction in the level of spend on ministerial cars compared to the level inherited from the last Administration.

Financial year	£
2005-06	383,400
2006-07	383,400
2007-08	401,400
2008-09	418,300
2009-10	488,300
2010-11	[1]52,639 [2]268,952

[1] To 12 May 2010

[2] From 12 May 2010 to 31 March 2011

Information prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is as follows:

Department for Communities and Local Government

	Number
2010	
September	63
October	62
November	101
December	63
2011	
January	65
February	80
March	123
Total	557

The Department now retains one allocated car. The Department's five other allocated cars have been given up and Ministers now use a pool car service on demand provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Electric Vehicles: Planning Permission

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the establishment of permitted development rights for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle charging points. [66439]

Robert Neill: My Department is committed to amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to introduce permitted development rights for electric vehicle charging points as part of our agenda to support renewable energy and low carbon technologies. This will be done at the earliest opportunity.

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to enable improved sharing of *(a)* information and *(b)* operating practices between fire and rescue services. [66793]

Robert Neill: It is for each fire and rescue authority to decide the type and level of information it may choose to share with other fire and rescue authorities or partner agencies. Fire and rescue authorities have responsibility as with other local authorities for the use and protection of personal and secure data and information. The Government have produced guidance, to assist fire and rescue authorities to comply with the relevant legislation.

The Government's expectation was laid out in the National Framework (2008-11) where fire and rescue authorities must:

> "Have in place systematic arrangements to ensure incident and safety event outcomes inform the ongoing development of safe systems of work and training and development of staff. This should include the sharing of risk critical information on a regional/national basis when appropriate."

The chief fire and rescue adviser has responsibility for the production of national operational guidance for the fire and rescue service. Systems are in place to gather information from operational incidents to determine and refresh such guidance where appropriate.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has for future provision of *(a)* fire appliances and *(b)* emergency equipment to fire brigades in (i) London and (ii) Lincolnshire; [R] [66825]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the future provision of *(a)* fire appliances and *(b)* emergency equipment to fire brigades in (i) London and (ii) Lincolnshire; [R] [66826]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of likely future provision of *(a)* fire appliances and *(b)* emergency equipment to fire brigades in (i) London and (ii) Lincolnshire. [R] [66827]

Robert Neill: The provision of fire appliances and their associated equipment is the responsibility of individual fire and rescue authorities. I have had a number of representations regarding the current arrangements for ownership and management of vehicles and equipment in London and Lincolnshire.

Fire Services: Pensions

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the viability of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme if there is a drop-out rate of 10 per cent. or more. [66790]

Robert Neill: In his interim report, Lord Hutton of Furness recommended increasing employee contributions as the cost of public service pensions had increased by a third due to improving longevity and this additional cost had fallen primarily on taxpayers. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's rationale and, at the spending review, announced the intention to implement progressive increases to employee contribution rates in public sector pension schemes, equivalent to 3% on average to be phased in from April 2012.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

which has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

To minimise opt-outs occurring, any changes to the firefighters' pension schemes will be phased and progressive, so that higher earners contribute at a higher rate than lower earners. Proposals for future changes to contribution rates for members of the firefighters' pension schemes will be issued for consultation later this year.

Non-domestic Rates: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation his Department undertook with *(a)* Sunderland City Council and *(b)* the Local Government Group prior to the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement on the future of the national non-domestic rating pool. [67106]

Robert Neill: The Local Growth White Paper, "Realising every place's potential", published on 28 October 2010, sought comments on the possibility of allowing councils to keep locally raised non domestic rates. The Local Government Resource Review's consideration of proposals for business rates retention has taken account of the response from Sunderland City Council to the Local Growth White Paper and regular discussions with the Local Government Group, both through a formal Working Group and through bilateral meetings. We will continue with that engagement as the proposals are taken forward.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of local committees for the Homes and Communities Agency's management of former assets of regional development agencies; [67277]

(2) whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency on the transfer of assets held by the regional development agencies. [67287]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Minister for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 95-96WS. This outlined that we are working to a date of 19 September 2011 to arrange the transfer of the regional development agencies assets to the Homes and Communities Agency under a stewardship arrangement, subject to completion of the necessary detailed work and arrangements. We are working very closely with our colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Homes and Communities Agency to finalise these details, including discussions on local and national governance.

Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government also regularly meet with the chair and chief executive of the Homes and Communities Agency to discuss the agency's core business.

Repossession Orders: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is taking steps to reduce the number of repossessions in Sunderland Central constituency. [66445]

Grant Shapps: The Government are helping home owners in difficulty by tackling the record deficit to prevent a rapid increase in interest rates hitting struggling households.

The Government are committed to working closely with lenders, debt advice agencies and local authorities to ensure that repossession is only ever a last resort and that effective help and advice for home owners at risk of repossession is available. The Government 'Mortgage Help' website outlines the options available to households.

The Government continue to provide direct financial support to struggling home owners through support for mortgage interest. In addition, the Government also provide support for eligible householders through the mortgage rescue scheme.

Shared Equity Schemes: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house buyers in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency received support from shared equity schemes in each of the last five years. [66382]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows the shared equity completions (ie purchases) funded by the Government in the London borough of Bexley for the past five years. Information is not collected by constituency.

	Number
2006-07	26
2007-08	13
2008-09	52
2009-10	71
2010-11	0
Total	162

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Information Management System

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Anaerobic Strategy Document

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much her Department spent on consultants as part of the preparation of the Anaerobic Strategy Document; [65057]

(2) what the cost was of producing the Anaerobic Strategy Document. [65058]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA spent £4,600 on external costs (printing, meetings etc.), plus dedicated staff resources, to produce the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan. No consultants were used in the production of the document.

Angling: Licensing

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of income derived from rod licences in England and Wales was used for river maintenance and habitat management in the latest period for which figures are available. [64872]

Richard Benyon: Rod licence income is spent entirely on fisheries work by the Environment Agency (EA). This work does include some habitat improvement, focused on increasing fish stocks with the purpose of improving angling. In 2009-10 the EA spent £1.4 million (approximately 5.5%) of rod licence income on habitat improvement in rivers.

Bed Bugs

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is *(a)* undertaking or *(b)* commissioning research into new pesticides to deal with bed bug infestations. [65226]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is not undertaking or commissioning research into new pesticides to deal with bed bug infestations.

Ministerial Meetings

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department have attended since her appointment which were also attended by (1) (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB; [66006]

(2) Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66012]

Richard Benyon: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from her Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64687]

Richard Benyon: In DEFRA staff are dismissed for under-performance following application of the formal Improving Performance or Probation Procedures.

The following table shows the number of staff subject to formal performance action in each of the last three years where action has resulted in dismissal. This information is provided for core DEFRA and its agencies. Five of these cases relate to unsatisfactory probation. These figures do not include staff who left the department or its agencies when subject to informal performance action. No central records are kept of these departures.

	Number of dismissals
2009-10	[1]—
2010-11	9
2011-12	0

[1] Details of dismissals in this year are being withheld for confidentiality reasons as the number of dismissals is less than five.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63581]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not collect statistics about the background of individuals who make FOI requests.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64433]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold this information.

Droughts

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to encourage the water industry to put in place a co-ordinated and phased approach to the introduction of hosepipe bans. [62319]

Richard Benyon: Most water companies are reviewing and updating their statutory drought plans, following the commencement of legislation to update their powers to manage water restrictions.

As droughts are not uniform in terms of duration, geography and impact, water companies need to be able to respond flexibly and quickly to emerging conditions in their areas. However, the Government recognise that different approaches to the implementation of restrictions can lead to some confusion for customers. We have asked the water companies to work together to minimise such confusion and to consult with their customers on their plans and their priorities for water savings.

The Government have taken a close and hands on approach to managing the impacts of the current drought. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), met with representatives of the sectors affected by the dry conditions on 27 June to hear an update on the situation and agree further actions that could be taken to prepare for a prolonged or multi season drought.

Environmental Protection

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means she plans to assess the contribution made by *(a)* local nature partnerships and *(b)* nature improvement areas to (i) the outcomes set out in her Department's Natural Environment White Paper, (ii) commitments under the agreement reached in Nagoya on setting targets to protect the natural environment and (iii) the EU biodiversity strategy. [66787]

Richard Benyon: We will shortly be publishing a new biodiversity strategy for England. This will build on the Natural Environment White Paper and set out how we are taking forward our international biodiversity commitments in England. We will assess progress on our biodiversity objectives in the context of the arrangements to be set up under this strategy.

EU Packaging Directive

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress in meeting obligations under the EU Packaging Directive. [66427]

Richard Benyon: The UK achieved the targets set in the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) in 2008, and maintained that achievement in 2009 and 2010.

Flood Control

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the weighting given to agricultural land in *(a)* the Fens and *(b)* other areas of flood risk in her Department's flood risk management models to take into account the potential effect on flooding on the (i) population of and (ii) food supply from such areas. [66519]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's policy on appraisal requires flood management authorities in all areas to value agricultural land and the damages that could occur to food production as a result of flooding and coastal erosion in line with HM Treasury guidance. Specific guidance was provided by DEFRA in 2008, based on HM Treasury Green Book appraisal principles. This is in line with the approach taken to the valuation of other assets. The guidance allows authorities to recognise the different kinds of agricultural output in flood and erosion risk areas and their different values. For example, it highlights the value of specialist salad crops in the Fens and the fact these are less viable to grow elsewhere.

The recently published policy statement on an outcome-focused, partnership approach to funding flood and coastal erosion risk management will continue to help to ensure that damages avoided to agricultural land (and other assets) are valued alongside benefits to households and the population in areas of flood and coastal erosion risk.

Food: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution her Department will make to the agricultural market information system agreed at the recent G20 Agriculture Ministerial summit in Paris. [63807]

Mr Paice: DEFRA will participate enthusiastically in these initiatives. It is too early to say what form our contribution will take.

Food: Waste

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce food waste. [66274]

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce levels of household food waste. [66426]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, sets our direction to move towards a zero waste economy. It outlines our long-term vision for food waste, which includes substantially reducing the amount arising.

To do this we will continue to help businesses and consumers waste less food by sharing insight, evidence and best practice, improving product design and retail and supply chain practice,. engaging consumers, and encouraging local partnership approaches to food waste prevention.

As well as continuing to work with food retailers and manufacturers via the Courtauld Commitment, the Government will develop a new responsibility deal with the hospitality and food service sector, which will cover food waste prevention. We will also lead by example by tackling food waste across the public sector estate.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility she has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action she has taken in this regard. [65772]

Richard Benyon: The Government will shortly be publishing their strategy on human trafficking.

The strategy will reiterate the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims. It will also mark a greater focus on combating the organised crime groups behind this crime.

The Government's approach will be based on four key principles:

improved victim care arrangements;

enhancing our ability to act early, before the harm has reached the UK;

smarter, multi-agency action at the border; and

a more co-ordinated policing effort at home.

Innovative Reward and Recognition Schemes

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much funding has been allocated to her Department's grant funding scheme for innovative reward and recognition schemes available to community groups, civil society organisation and local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available; [66429]

(2) what plans she has for the roll-out in London of *(a)* local green points and *(b)* other recycling reward schemes. [66430]

Richard Benyon: The Government encourages councils to reward people to recycle. We have announced that £500,000 is being made available to local authorities and other organisations for innovative reward schemes, but we have not prescribed particular initiatives. This choice is a matter for local authorities. The funding was announced as part of the Waste Review in June and the closing date for applications is 26 July.

International Whaling Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has any plans to bring forward proposals to increase the transparency of the governance of the International Whaling Commission. [66370]

Richard Benyon: A UK-led proposal, supported by all other member states of the European Union, was presented at this year's annual conference of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). It set out a number of reforms to improve the effectiveness and transparency of the IWC.

I am very pleased to report that the proposal was successfully adopted by consensus. The measures agreed will enable the IWC to transform itself into a modern, transparent and credible international organisation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions her Department has had with the International Whaling Commission on the enforceability of the scientific resources exemption; [66371]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the applicability of the scientific resources exemption in the rules of the International Whaling Commission. [66372]

Richard Benyon: Under the international convention on the regulation of whaling, contracting Governments are able to issue "special permits" to allow whaling for scientific purposes. Japan conducts this 'scientific' whaling legally under current International Whaling Commission (IWC) rules. The UK considers that such action severely hampers international efforts to conserve and protect whales and undermines the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling.

At last week's annual meeting of the IWC, the UK made its opposition to Japan's 'scientific' whaling clear.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to *(a)* promote and *(b)* enforce the ban on commercial whaling by all members of the International Whaling Commission. [66373]

Richard Benyon: I attended this year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting to demonstrate the UK Government's commitment to the work of the IWC, and our support for the moratorium on whaling.

At this year's meeting the UK promoted the creation of whale sanctuaries and the need for improved welfare and efforts to address endangered cetacean populations, including further action to be taken to save the critically endangered Western Gray Whale.

Landfill: Recycling

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of how much waste collected for recycling was sent to landfill in each of the last five years. [64587]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold data on all waste that is collected for recycling but subsequently rejected and sent to landfill. DEFRA's WasteDataFlow system provides data on waste collected by local authorities:

www.wastedataflow.org

The following table shows the tonnages of waste collected for recycling or reuse from household and other sources that were subsequently rejected at the gate of the reprocessor since 2005. This waste would either be sent to landfill or incineration; figures for landfill alone, excluding incineration, are not held.

Local authority recycling rejects

	Source (tonnes)			*Percentage of waste collected for recycling and rejected by reprocessor*		
	Household	*Non-household*	*Total*	*Household*	*Non-household*	*Total*
2009-10	183,913	4,084	187,997	1.94	0.47	1.82
2008-09	156,839	10,393	167,233	1.69	1.10	1.64
2007-08	134,441	5,075	139,515	1.52	0.52	1.42
2006-07	125,895	1,118	127,013	1.56	0.12	1.41
2005-06	105,617	4,692	110,309	1.54	0.47	1.40

Marine Conservation Zones

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quality assurance processes will be applied to *(a)* environmental, *(b)* social and *(c)* economic data used in the English Marine Conservation Zone regional projects; and what timetable has been set for the completion of such quality assurance processes. [64217]

Richard Benyon: The Government's policy is that the best available evidence should be used to identify sites and conservation objectives. This policy is set out in the Government's Guidance Note 1 on the Selection and Designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), to which the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) and Marine Conservation Zones Regional Projects are working. The evidence used in the regional project process includes data supplied by national contracts, with regionally and locally sourced data, and expert knowledge. Ministers want to make sound decisions on sites to take forward for designation, so we have ensured, and will continue to ensure that quality assurance processes are put in place.

The independent Science Advisory Panel has provided scientific advice to the regional projects on the creation of an ecologically-coherent network and ecological evidence. The panel has reviewed all the iterations and the draft recommendations of the regional projects. For social and economic data, the impact assessment being drawn up by the SNCBs and regional projects will be externally peer reviewed. In addition, we have asked the regional projects to reference all evidence used (both scientific and stakeholder evidence) to reach their recommendations and assess the social and economic impact, and the quality control and assurance processes they applied. We have asked the SNCBs to provide us with a clear assessment of the scientific certainty and quality assurance of evidence used.

The regional project recommendations will be submitted on 31 August 2011, the final Science Advisory Panel review of these recommendations is expected to be completed by mid October 2011, the external peer review of the impact assessment is expected to be completed by mid November, and the SNCB advice (including their assessment of scientific certainty) will be provided in mid January 2012.

Marine Conservation Zones: Birds

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether marine conservation zones will be designated for mobile species including seabirds, cetaceans and basking sharks; under what conditions such designations may be made; and if she will make a statement. [64219]

Richard Benyon: The Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies' Ecological Network Guidance to the Regional Projects describes the requirements for an ecologically coherent network, including those habitats and species of conservation importance considered to be most appropriately protected using Marine Conservation Zones. This includes three mobile species: smelt, European eel and undulate rays.

Highly-mobile species are best protected by measures which can apply across their range and spatial protection mechanisms are not always, in isolation, the most effective way of protecting these species. We will continue to develop bespoke management measures for vulnerable mobile species, such as acoustic deterrents to reduce dolphin by-catch and fisheries protection for endangered sharks. All naturally occurring wild birds, including seabirds, are protected by the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 2007. This legislation transposes the EC wild birds directive and, in particular, prohibits the deliberate killing or taking of wild birds and provides for the classification of special protection areas for birds in both English and UK waters.

If areas important to habitats or species not specified in the Ecological Network Guidance are identified, the evidence should be provided and we will consider their protection through Marine Conservation Zones.

Packaging Waste

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to establish a statutory producer responsibility regime for *(a)* metal and *(b)* plastic packaging. [66431]

Richard Benyon: A statutory producer responsibility regime for metal and plastic packaging is in place under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Metals: Recycling

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage the recycling of strategic metals. [65976]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Government will shortly respond to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report on strategically important metals.

DEFRA's business plan contains a commitment to develop an action plan on resource security. This will consider the need for further actions to assist businesses with risk management and recovery of critical resources, such as strategically important metals.

Sustainable use of materials and waste prevention are Government priorities. The Government have already set out some approaches to reducing use and increasing recovery of critical materials in the review of waste policy in England.

More generally, we encourage the recycling and recovery of all metallic wastes through adoption of the waste hierarchy so as to prevent valuable resources going to landfill; supporting the development of European end-of-waste criteria; and domestic quality protocols to fully recover waste to a non-waste product. Lighter regulatory controls are also in place for those carrying out small-scale, low-risk recycling and recovery operations of scrap metal and waste electrical and electronic equipment, by providing exemptions from the need for an environmental permit.

Packaging: Plastics

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to implement the recommendations of the annual report of the Advisory Committee on Packaging for 2010-11 on plastic packaging targets. [66723]

Richard Benyon: In the Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, the Government stated their intention to consult on increased recycling targets for all packaging materials, including plastic. The findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Packaging in relation to plastic packaging targets will be considered as part of this.

Packaging: Toys and Games

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to convene with the Work Reduction Action Programme and other relevant trade associations a working group on toy packaging. [66722]

Richard Benyon: Following the publication of the Review of Waste Policy in England in June, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is commissioning data analysis of packaging usage in the toy sector, with results expected in the autumn. A working group will be established to review the data findings and agree next steps. It will include representatives from both WRAP and the relevant trade associations.

Pigmeat: EU Action

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of implementing the recommendations of the European Commission's Pigmeat Enlarged Advisory Group. [65279]

Mr Paice: On 18 May 2011, the EU Commission presented the key conclusions of the Enlarged Advisory Group on Pigmeat. These focus on the role of innovation in boosting the competitiveness of the sector and the importance of better integration across the industry. The Commission has made no specific recommendations at this stage, but expects to consider the sector further in its forthcoming legislative proposals on the future CAP.

Anaerobic Digestion

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures her Department plans to adopt to monitor data on (1) anaerobic plant capacity; [64534]

(2) actual and intended farmer take up of anaerobic digestion plants on an annual basis. [64535]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan was published in June. This contains clearly identified actions that will ensure that we monitor the progress of the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) industry. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC) will publish an agreed baseline map of existing capacity by September this year. WRAP and the AD industry will continue to monitor the growth in capacity at all scales, and will publish this information via the NNFCC AD Portal website:

www.biogas-info.co.uk

Farmers' use of AD technology will be included in the monitoring of the growth of the sector. Farm-based plants are already recorded on the map of AD plants published on the NNFCC portal site, and we will continue to monitor developments of farm-based digesters so that we can accurately assess capacity development in this sector.

Recycling: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department provided to City of York council to increase recycling rates in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [65951]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA provides funding to upper tier local authorities outside London through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant to support investment in infrastructure, such as recycling and composting facilities, to boost recycling rates. The grant was for three years of the comprehensive spending review 2007 period and was front loaded at the time to encourage early investment.

DEFRA provided the following amounts to the City of York council:

(a) 2009-10: £361,122.65

(b) 2010-11: £133,485.73.

The Government provide funding more generally to local authorities to support the delivery of their services through the Revenue Support Grant. This funding is not ring-fenced, giving councils the freedom to work with their residents when deciding how best to prioritise their spending, including on the provision of recycling services.

Research: Capital Investment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her most recent estimate is of the capital expenditure in research and development by her Department in *(a)* the last four financial years and *(b)* the next four financial years; [64811]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the revenue expenditure in research and development by her Department in *(a)* the last four financial years and *(b)* the next four financial years. [64812]

Richard Benyon: Research and development (R&D) expenditure in DEFRA is classed as resource (revenue) expenditure, and therefore there is no capital expenditure to report.

(a) DEFRA's most recent assessment (7 July 2011) of research and development spend in the core Department in the past four years is as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	130
2008-09	125
2009-10	120
2010-11	[1]103

[1] Within an overall evidence budget of £209 million.

(b) DEFRA now allocates budgets on the basis of evidence, rather than research and development.

Evidence is defined as reliable and accurate information that DEFRA can use to support sound decisions in developing, shaping, and evaluating policy. It includes research and development, monitoring and surveillance, economic and statistical analysis and modelling, secondary analysis and synthesis, and analysis of stakeholder views.

It is not possible to be definitive about future R&D-specific spend at this point as the figures include a significant ring-fenced unallocated evidence provision retained for 2012-13 onwards. This will be allocated annually according to the DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser's advice on the evidence priorities at the time. The exact proportion of the evidence total spent on research and development may vary depending on this advice. It is, however, possible to provide DEFRA's planned total programme evidence budgets (including statutory and non-statutory monitoring and animal health and welfare surveillance as well as R&D) for each of the next four years as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	199
2012-13	188
2013-14	177
2014-15	166

River Ouse

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how her Department monitors the riverbed levels of the tidal River Ouse; and how the outcome of this monitoring is communicated to the public. [66301]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency (EA) undertakes bed level surveys of the Tidal River Great Ouse every three months and has done so for many years. Survey information is available back to the 1940's and provides data to monitor both long and short term changes to the bed level profile.

These survey data are not routinely published, but are available on request. They are frequently used by the EA for analysts, programming works or in developing long-term strategies, such as the Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy, which was available to all stakeholders including the public at the consultation stage.

The bed level survey data are used by the EA when briefing local stakeholders, such as internal drainage boards, conservation organisations and local communities, for example, Welney parish council, about the current state of siltation in the Great Ouse.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the use of Denver Sluice to flush silt from the tidal River Ouse; and what records her Department keeps on the operation of the sluice. [66302]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Environment Agency's policy and operational rules for Denver Sluice are to maximise the available flow so that it can discharge through the sluices at all times. These flows help to reduce the siltation of the Tidal River downstream of the Denver Sluice. This is line with the Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy recommendations and has been found to be the most efficient, sustainable and cost-effective way of managing the build-up of silt in the Tidal River.

Daily flow calculations are recorded for all sluice gates at Denver. These are used for a number of reasons including calculating: the available flow for discharge through Denver sluices, the available flow for transfer to Essex to replenish public water resources in the Abberton reservoir, and the river levels required to maintain healthy fisheries, and to provide navigation. Records also include upstream and downstream river levels.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency's Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy has received final approval; what its status is; and what opportunities there are to review it. [66303]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy was approved by the Anglian Central Regional Flood Defence Committee in 2010 and received internal Environment Agency (EA) approval from the National Review Group (now the Large Projects Review Group). This followed a full public consultation carried out in 2009, and detailed discussions with the local planning authorities in the Strategy area. Now that the (EA) has agreed local planning protocols, the Strategy is expected to be signed-off by the EA Board this year.

The Tidal River Strategy is a long-term (100-year) approach to managing flood risk in this part of the Fens. The EA aims to review its strategic plans every five to ten years.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department plans to allocate to the Environment Agency's Great Ouse flood risk management budget for *(a)* dredging of the tidal River Ouse and *(b)* the Hundred Foot River in the next five years. [66304]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Environment Agency (EA) undertakes detailed planning for desilting requirements on an annual basis. This enables the EA to react to the routine quarterly bathymetric (water depth) surveys it carries out to monitor the bed levels and siltation in the rivers.

Over the next five years, the EA's forecast spend for desilting works on the tidal Great Ouse is estimated at £75,000, and on the Hundred Foot river is estimated at £200,000. This forecast spending will have flexibility built-in to react to changing needs.

The Tidal River Strategy concluded that a routine programme of dredging these rivers was prohibitively expensive and unsustainable.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long it took to formulate the Environment Agency's Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy; at what cost to the public purse; and what assessment her Department has made of the value for money of the strategy. [66305]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Environment Agency (EA) first scoped the Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy in 2005. The Strategy was completed in 2010 and final sign-off by the EA Board is due this year.

The Strategy evaluated key technical issues concerning engineering, the complexity of the managed hydrology, climate change, sea level rise and the economic justification (under HM Treasury rules) for any works in the Tidal Ouse system.

The total cost of producing the Strategy was £780,000 which consisted of £140,000 for EA staff costs and £640,000 for supplier costs. The project incurred additional costs due to changes in guidance from when the Strategy was initially scoped (in 2005) and from undertaking more development work following extensive public consultation.

The Strategy recommends spending on the system over the next 100 years to continue to manage flood risk of £227,000,000. This is a cash cost based on 2009 prices.

The preparation of the Strategy cost less than 0.35% of the total long-term cost of managing the Tidal River Great Ouse over the next 100 years. The Strategy is a substantial project, leading to the first real appraisal of the sustainability of this tidal fenland system, against the issues of climate change, sea-level rise, siltation and water-level management. The Strategy provides the economic justification for ongoing investment for the Ouse Washes and this means the many projects the Environment Agency undertake around this substantial reservoir (and its many components) are based on a sound appraisal of the need for and value of the assets maintained. Without this Strategy it would be very difficult to justify, technically and economically, continued flood risk management investment on the Tidal Ouse system.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the potential future costs to arise from implementation of the Environment Agency's Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy. [66518]

Richard Benyon: The whole-life cash costs (not discounted to present day values) of implementing the plan over the 100 year life of the strategy are estimated to be £227 million. This includes capital intervention to the system assets, maintenance and a contingency allowance. The potential cash cost of works in the first five years is £12,900,000.

Rivers

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to include proposals for river environment restoration for chalk streams in the Water White Paper. [66273]

Richard Benyon: As announced in the Natural Environment White Paper, the Government intend to take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently. Further details, including those relating to the environmental restoration of chalk streams affected by unsustainable abstraction, will be included in the Water White Paper, due to be published later this year.

Rural Advocate

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements she plans to put in place for the fulfilment of the functions of the post of Rural Advocate. [66355]

Richard Benyon: The Government abolished the role of Rural Advocate in July 2010. The post had no statutory functions that need to continue and the Government have no plan to introduce new arrangements for the appointment of a publicly-funded external rural campaigner.

DEFRA Ministers will act as rural champions, and many rural MPs also act as effective advocates for rural life. In addition, there are many rural organisations and commentators who already advocate strongly and effectively on behalf of rural people, and the Government will work with these to ensure that the needs and interests of rural communities and businesses are fully and fairly reflected in their policies and programmes.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she received in support of the abolition of the post of Rural Advocate. [66356]

Richard Benyon: The Government have not received any recent representations in support of their decision to abolish the post of Rural Advocate in the last year.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), and DEFRA Ministers have gone on record thanking Dr Burgess for his dedication, commitment and hard work undertaken as Rural Advocate during his tenure.

Rural Areas: Broadband

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable is in place for the Rural Community Broadband Fund. [67282]

Richard Benyon: The Government announced on 10 March that they are establishing a rural Community Broadband Fund with funding of up to £20 million. The fund will draw on the Rural Development Programme for England's European funds and funding from the £530 million available to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). It will provide support to rural communities for small community broadband projects.

Further details and how the fund will operate are being finalised between BDUK and DEFRA, but it is currently envisaged that the fund will be in operation by the end of 2011. Further information will be made available ahead of this.

Tuna: Conservation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the International Union for Conservation of Nature on the threat of extinction to species of tuna. [66315]

Richard Benyon: The report which lists Southern and Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tunas as being under varying degrees of threat is concerning. It is essential that we continue to do all we can to ensure that the international bodies responsible for managing these species take all the necessary steps required to restore them to sustainable levels.

It is good to see that the report recognises that some recent measures, such as the reduced catches of Atlantic bluefin, may help the species to recover, but we need to ensure that these measures are built upon to ensure a sustainable future for these species.

Waste Management

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take with the devolved administrations on measures to achieve a zero-waste economy. [66724]

Richard Benyon: Waste policy is a devolved issue and each administration is responsible for its own area, within the EU legislative context. However, while specific policies may differ, the overarching ambitions of our waste programmes are consistent. These are to move waste up the hierarchy, preventing waste wherever possible and increasing re-use and recycling. DEFRA will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations on these issues.

Water Abstraction: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for future levels of abstraction at the pumping stations at Fulling Mill and White Hall in North East Hertfordshire constituency. [66077]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is seeking to reduce the levels of abstractions at Fulling Mill and White Hall. Investigations carried out between 2005-10 identified that abstractions at the two locations are having a detrimental impact on the ecology of the Rivers Mimram and Beane.

The Environment Agency has requested the closure of Fulling Mill Pumping Station (River Mimram), and a reduction in abstraction at Whitehall Pumping Station (River Beane). Both these abstractions are operated by Veolia Water Central (VWC), who have agreed to implement these reductions in 2015 subject to compensation.

Cost benefit assessments are currently being undertaken at both locations to clarify the benefits in terms of environmental improvements of the reduction in abstraction compared to the estimated compensation costs. These assessments are scheduled for completion by March 2012. Our initial assessment has been completed and we are in the process of reviewing this to take into account the environmental benefits.

HEALTH

Abortion

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to use *(a)* existing primary legislation or *(b)* secondary legislation under existing primary legislation to give effects to the proposals in amendments 1 to 3 to the Health and Social Care (Re-committed) Bill in respect of the provision of independent information, advice and counselling services for women requesting termination of pregnancy. [66051]

Anne Milton: Amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill are not necessary to require the availability of independent abortion counselling.

We are working on proposals to allow all women seeking an abortion to be offered access to independent counselling by appropriately qualified individuals.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for alcohol-related illnesses in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and York primary care trust area and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [65840]

Anne Milton: The information is in the following table. These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

We have not been able to include data for 1997-98 to 2001-02 as requested as alcohol attributable fractions are only available from 2002-03.

Number of finished admission episodes which are estimated to be alcohol-related for England, York local authority (LA), and North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) of residence: 2002-03 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector		
	England	*York LA*	*North Yorkshire and York PCT of residence*
2002-03	510,778	1,926	8,087
2003-04	570,108	2,134	9,130
2004-05	644,738	2,483	9,981
2005-06	736,054	2,791	10,391
2006-07	802,066	2,878	10,862
2007-08	863,566	2,725	11,484
2008-09	945,470	3,252	12,662
2009-10	1,056,962	3,280	14,808

Notes:

1. Alcohol-related admissions.

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:

www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

The application of the NWPHO methodology has recently been updated and is now available directly from HES. As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.

2.PCT/SHA data quality.

In July 2006, the NHS reorganised strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided. See the following table.

It should be noted that in 2005-06 Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT merged to form North Yorkshire and York PCT of residence.

3. SHA/PCT/LA of residence.

The SHA, PCT or LA containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another area for treatment.

4. Assessing growth through time.

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis.

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

6. Data quality.

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

PCT of residence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Total	8,087	9,130	9,981	10,391
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT	2,532	2,693	2,704	2,913
Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT	1,036	1,575	1,892	1,799

PCT of residence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	1,794	1,723	1,827	1,717
Selby and York PCT	2,725	3,138	3,557	3,962

Anti-depressants: Children

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children aged between *(a)* 0 and 15 years and *(b)* 16 and 18 years who were prescribed anti-depressants in each year since 1997. [66942]

Paul Burstow: No estimate has been made. Information on the ages of individuals prescribed anti-depressants is not collected.

Baby Care Units: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 865W, on baby care units: finance, whether the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for allocating funding for neonatal networks from April 2012; and what plans he has to ensure that funding for neonatal networks continues beyond financial year 2011-12. [66101]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have committed to retain and strengthen existing clinical networks and to use clinical networks to help ensure that a range of professionals play an integral part in the clinical commissioning of patient care. Further work will be undertaken to define these networks and review their range, function and effectiveness to deliver strengthened clinical networks in the new system. Decisions about the allocation of funding will be made following the conclusion of this work.

It is expected that in future clinical networks would be hosted by the NHS Commissioning Board, which would allow them to maximise the range and scale of support they provide to be most effective to clinical commissioning groups.

Contaminated Blood

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcomes were of the meeting between officials in his Department and representatives of Tainted Blood, the Manor House Group, the Hepatitis C Trust and the Haemophilia Society on 29 June 2011. [66957]

Anne Milton: At the meeting, I informed the representatives that I will be meeting a group of clinical and scientific experts later this year to discuss the current eligibility criteria for stage 2 hepatitis C payments, and that I will also be keeping the funding of the Caxton Foundation under review once we have a better understanding of the size of the beneficiary group. I also listened to the comments they made.

Blood: Screening

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* NHS foundation trusts use laboratory services outwith the UK to carry out blood analysis testing. [66462]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold this information.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ensure that breast cancer screening standards are maintained and reduce the chances of local variations in the standards of service provision; [65928]

(2) if he will take steps to maintain or increase the number of clinical nurse specialists working in breast care; [65938]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that digital technology is used by all breast screening programmes in England. [65939]

Paul Burstow: Strict quality assurance operates across the NHS breast screening programme at a cost of £5 million per year. The aim of quality assurance in the programme is to maintain standards and continued improvement in the performance of all aspects of breast screening in order to ensure that women have access to a high quality service wherever they live. In line with the update on 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', breast screening quality assurance will become the responsibility of Public Health England from 1 April 2013.

As at 30 June 2011, 85% of the 80 local breast screening units in England had at least one digital mammography machine, and 39% were fully digital. We have advised programmes to move to direct digital as quickly as possible as the independent Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening has said that running both film and digital systems together is inefficient.

We know that cancer patients greatly value the care and support of clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). The 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey showed that 93% of breast cancer patients reported having a CNS. To support the national health service to develop the CNS work force, 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' sets out our intention to build the evidence base for the benefits and costs savings that CNSs can offer. This follows an independent report we published in December 2010 that showed that, in many scenarios, the costs of additional support roles are likely to be outweighed by the savings that can be achieved. The 2010 Census of Cancer Specialist Nurses in England reported that there were 2,164.2 whole-time equivalents CNSs in the 28 English cancer networks, of which 400.37 worked in breast cancer. A copy of the census has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Education

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that his proposed public health reforms include *(a)* a long-term commitment to cancer awareness campaigns and *(b)* measures to increase awareness of screening among black, Asian and minority ethnic people. [65937]

Anne Milton: Alongside publication of the Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy People, Healthy Lives', the Department published two related consultation documents. One of these, the 'Consultation on Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health', set out proposals for future public health commissioning responsibilities. We proposed that local authorities would lead on behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to help prevent cancer and other conditions and campaigns to prompt early diagnosis via awareness of symptoms. 'Improving Outcomes—a Strategy for Cancer', published in January 2011, committed to continuing work to promote earlier diagnosis, including, subject to successful evaluation of pilots, further campaigns.

It was also proposed in the consultation that Public Health England would be responsible for funding all national screening programmes. The design and quality assurance of screening programmes would be a direct responsibility of Public Health England, as would funding and managing the piloting and rolling out of new programmes and extending current ones. The NHS Commissioning Board would commission established programmes on behalf of Public Health England, as specified and with funding transferred for that purpose. It will be vital to ensure as many people as possible are aware of screening programmes including black, Asian and minority ethnic people and there will need to be work to tackle inequalities in the uptake of screening.

We will be responding to the consultations in due course.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress he has made in ensuring equality in cancer treatment across England and Wales. [66982]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" (January 2011) sets out a goal to save at least an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15, aiming to narrow the inequalities gap at the same time. The strategy makes clear that tackling health inequalities is essential to improving outcomes and achieving cancer survival rates that match the best performing countries in the world.

Since its establishment in 2008, the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI) has undertaken a range of activities to reduce inequalities, including the publication of the major report "Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen" (March 2010). This set out a series of recommended national and local actions to reduce inequalities in cancer care around: data collection; analysis and publication; targeted interventions; training, development and research; evaluation and monitoring; and embedding equality.

The NCEI is working with Macmillan Cancer Support and Age UK on a £1 million programme to improve cancer care and outcomes for older people. The programme consists of 13 pilot sites across the country to improve intervention rates for people over 70 who have a cancer diagnosis. Pilots will introduce new ways of assessing older people for cancer treatment, offer short-term practical support for older people undergoing cancer treatment and will address any age discrimination in cancer services by identifying and addressing the training needs of all professionals working with older people.

In addition, the NCEI work programme for 2011-12 includes: enabling multi-disciplinary teams to undertake annual patient level equality audits to reflect on treatment, experience and practice issues for their local patients; working with the National Cancer Intelligence Network to produce local profiles for emerging national health service organisations, including equality characteristics where appropriate; and examining the 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey results by equality group.

Colorectal Cancer: East Midlands

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the East Midlands Cancer Drugs Fund provides funding for Avastin for *(a)* first-line treatment for bowel cancer and *(b)* second-line treatment. [66204]

Paul Burstow: Under the Cancer Drugs Fund, NHS East Midlands routinely funds bevacizumab (Avastin) for first line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer and first line treatment of renal cell cancer if intolerant to pazopanib and sunitinib.

We understand that applications for bevacizumab for other indications are considered by the NHS East Midlands clinical panel on a case by case basis.

Details of the drugs and indications routinely funded by NHS East Midlands under the Cancer Drugs Fund are updated periodically and made available on its website at:

http://www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=40204&type=full&servicetype=Attachment

Contraception: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons public health guidance on contraceptive services for socially-disadvantaged young people has been suspended; and when such guidance will be published. [66111]

Anne Milton: The publication of this guidance was postponed while the new commissioning arrangements for sexual health services outlined in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward", published 14 July 2011, were developed. A copy of this is available in the Library. The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will now review the role and purpose of this guidance.

Cord Blood

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department has provided for the collection and storage of umbilical cord blood in each year since 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [65867]

(2) what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the Stem Cell Strategic Forum; [65876]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the provision of umbilical cord blood for transplant; and if he will make a statement; [65877]

(4) what recent assessment has been made of the clinical benefits of umbilical cord blood transplant; and if he will make a statement. [65880]

Anne Milton: Funding for the collection and storage of umbilical cord blood is part of the Department's grant in aid to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Departmental figures show that funding allocated for the collection and storage of cord blood was as follows:

Funding

	£
2007-08	4,416,000
2008-09	4,535,000
2009-10	4,532,000

The most recent assessment of the provision of umbilical cord blood for transplant and its clinical benefits was made as part of work carried out by the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum. The Department published the report called 'The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK' on 1 December 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/pdf/
uk_stem_cell_strategic_forum_report.pdf

The Department has committed an additional £4 million in this financial year to implement the first tranche of the recommendations from the report.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many umbilical cord blood donations were collected in England in each year since 2007-08; and how many such donations contained a cell volume sufficient for clinical use; [65869]

(2) how many umbilical cord blood transplants were carried out in England in each year since 2007-08; [65870]

(3) how many women were asked to donate umbilical cord blood in England in each year since 2007-08; [65871]

(4) what plans he has to increase the number of NHS trusts that are able to collect umbilical cord blood for transplant. [65875]

Anne Milton: The following data refers to the donations collected by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) in England. They exclude any collections undertaken by private cord blood banks. The stem cell dose required for clinical use depends on many factors including the weight of the recipient. To maximise the utilisation of the cord blood bank, NHSBT preferentially bag high dose units as these are more clinically useful. The information is provided in the following table.

NHSBT cord blood collections and stem cell dose

	Donations collected	*High dose units banked*[1]
2007-08	2,638	1,051
2008-09	2,712	1,086
2009-10	3,166	1,298
2010-11	3,455	1,399

[1] Cord blood units that meet specification for banking, i.e. total nucleated cell count exceeds 90x10^7 (for Black and minority ethnic donors) and 120x10^7 (for European Caucasian donors), negative for infectious disease markers, sterile and otherwise safe for use.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Information on umbilical cord blood transplants in England since 2007 is provided in the following table.

Umbilical cord blood transplants in England

	Transplants
2007	75
2008	91
2009	95
2010	112

Note:
Data compiled with Anthony Nolan for calendar years.

The Department does not hold any information on how many women are asked to donate umbilical cord blood in England every year.

It is a decision for each individual NHS trust if it wishes to facilitate the collection of umbilical cord blood. Umbilical cord blood collected for the NHS Cord Blood Bank is part of a strategically agreed programme to increase the number of stem cell units available to transplant centres. It complements the work on adult donation carried out through the United Kingdom bone marrow registries. An important aim of the NHS Cord Blood Bank is to help redress the current inequality experienced by sections of the population, mainly from black or mixed parentage backgrounds, when looking for a suitable adult donor on bone marrow registries. For this reason, collection sites are located in areas with high ethnic diversity and high delivery rates. As a consequence, approximately 40% of donations in the NHS Cord Blood Bank derive from ethnic minority mothers. All the cord blood units stored in the NHS Cord Blood Bank are available to national health service patients across the country.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of umbilical cord blood transplant; [65872]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost per quality-adjusted life year associated with *(a)* autologous stem cell transplants, *(b)* allogeneic stem cell transplants from an adult donor and *(c)* umbilical cord blood transplants in the latest period for which figures are available; [65873]

(3) what the average cost to the public purse was of performing an umbilical cord blood transplant on *(a)* a child and *(b)* an adult in the latest period for which figures are available. [65874]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health published the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum report entitled "The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK" on 1 December 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/pdf/
uk_stem_cell_strategic_forum_report.pdf

The approximate costs of transplantation, including stem cell procurement and post-haemopoietic stem cell transplantation care appear on page 48 of the report.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding *(a)* the National Institute for Health Research and *(b)* the Medical Research Council has allocated for research into the collection, storage and use of umbilical cord blood and its clinical applications in each year since 2007-08. [65881]

Mr Simon Burns: Government investment in health research in England is made principally by the Department of Health, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, through the Medical Research Council (MRC).

Expenditure by the NIHR on research relating to the collection, storage and use of umbilical cord blood is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2007-08	0.1
2008-09	0.1
2009-10	0.1
2010-11	0.2

The MRC does not routinely record expenditure on research relating to umbilical cord blood research as a separate category. Projects involving research on umbilical cord blood cells are primarily categorised as adult stem cell research. The MRC's expenditure in all areas of stem cell research is detailed in the following table, and umbilical cord research will be a subset of the adult stem cell expenditure. In its records, the MRC classifies stem cell research as either adult or embryonic. This is because stem cells derived from an embryo are truly pluripotent, which means that each cell has the potential to become any type of cell that makes up the whole organism. Stem cells from other sources, including the umbilical cord, are multipotent so they have the potential to become a range of other cell types but not necessarily all cell types found in the adult.

			£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Adult stem cells	14.3	14.2	17.0
Embryonic stem cells	8.5	9.1	9.0
Adult/embryonic stem cells	2.7	5.1	11.6
Total	25.6	28.4	37.7

Data for 2010-11 are not available.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times he has visited *(a)* Buckinghamshire, *(b)* Surrey, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Dorset in an official capacity since May 2010. [65933]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Place	*Number of visits since May 2010*
Buckinghamshire	1
Dorset	1
Liverpool	5
Surrey	2

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66320]

Mr Simon Burns: There has been one permanent appointment to the Department of Health since the introduction of a recruitment freeze as part of the coalition Government's efficiency measures on 24 May 2010. In addition, there have been 54 temporary appointments. These were 24 secondments and 30 fixed term appointments.

18 fast streamers have been recruited by the Cabinet Office and been deployed to the Department since 24 May 2010.

The Department has not made any civil servant redundant since May 2010. However, we ran a voluntary exit scheme in January 2011 where 263 staff were offered early exit terms and have also released 16 staff on pre-2010 terms under the principal civil service compensation scheme.

The Department has 18 arm's length bodies (ALBs) that are subject to the Government's external recruitment freeze. The following table contains the figures for all ALBs.

ALB	*Number of people recruited since 24 May 2010*	*Number of people made redundant since 24 May 2010*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0	0
Appointments Commission[1]	2	8
Care Quality Commission[1]	0	123
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence[1]	1	0
General Social Care Council[1]	40	4
The Health and Social Care Information Centre[2]	7	9
Health Protection Agency[1]	249	32
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority[1]	4	0
Human Tissue Authority[1]	0	0
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[3]	22	1
Monitor—Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts[1]	34	0
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence[2]	73	10
National Patient Safety Agency[2]	16	63
National Treatment Agency[2]	9	0
NHS Blood and Transplant[2]	586	112
NHS Business Services Authority[2]	103	209
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement[2]	16	2
NHS Litigation Authority[2]	0	12

[1] Non-Departmental Public Body

[2] Special Health Authority

[3] Executive Agency

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66341]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any civil servant redundant since May 2010. However, we ran a voluntary exit scheme in January 2011, and have also released a small number of staff on pre-2010 terms under the principal civil service compensation scheme.

The total cost of these pre-2010 terms exits between May 2010 and the end of the 2010-11 financial year was £492,039 for initial (year 1) costs and £790,627 set aside to cover future years' annual compensation payments.

The costs of the January 2011 exit scheme totalled £19,373,071, all accounted for in the 2010-11 financial year.

There has been no central departmental spend so far on exits in 2011-12.

The Department has 18 arm's length bodies (ALBs), of which some are not non- departmental public bodies. The following table contains information about the cost of redundancies for all ALBs.

ALB	*Cost of Redundancies since 24 May 2010 (£)*
Alcohol Education and Research Council[1]	0
Appointments Commission[1]	422,992
Care Quality Commission[1]	9,160,707
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence[1]	0
General Social Care Council[1]	35,976
The Health and Social Care Information Centre[2]	250,533
Health Protection Agency[1]	748,000
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority[1]	0
Human Tissue Authority[1]	0
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[3]	5,409
Monitor—Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts[1]	0
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence[2]	544,211
National Patient Safety Agency[2]	2,583,000
National Treatment Agency[2]	0
NHS Blood and Transplant[2]	4,584,000
NHS Business Services Authority[2]	8,600,000
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement[2]	37,502
NHS Litigation Authority[2]	147,005

[1] Non-departmental public bodies
[2] Special health authorities
[3] Executive agency

Drugs: Older People

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 60 were prescribed anti-psychotic drugs treatments on the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [66941]

Mr Simon Burns: The age of the patient is not collected when a prescription is processed by the NHS Prescriptions Service and therefore the information requested is not available.

Health and Social Care: Voluntary Organisations

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of guidance and support to voluntary organisations to assist them to present their services in a tender suitable for the GP commissioning process. [66658]

Paul Burstow: Voluntary sector organisations already make a valuable contribution across health and social care.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the best providers flourish, whichever sector they are in. We will make sure that what matters is the quality of care provided, not who owns the organisation providing it. All providers, including charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises should have the same opportunities to offer services, provided they can meet the NHS service quality requirements and prices.

To support this, guidance on the phased extension of choice of provider in community and mental health services is forthcoming.

The Department will continue to work closely with its Voluntary Sector Strategic Partners to support voluntary sector capability to engage with primary care trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups as they develop and to ensure that understanding of commissioning processes and tendering is cascaded to the wider sector. The Department is already working with the sector in the design of the new system and arrangements and will continue to do so during this transition period.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Consultants

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many genito-urinary medicine consultants there are in each NHS hospital trust. [65926]

Anne Milton: The number of genito-urinary medicine consultants by NHS trust as of 30 September 2010 is contained in the following table.

Hospital and community health services: medical consultants in the genito-urinary medicine specialty by national health service trust, as at 30 September 2010

		Number (headcount)
England		350
5C1	Enfield Primary Care Trust (PCT)	2
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	3
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	2
5F7	Stockport PCT	1
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1
5HP	Blackpool PCT	2
5HQ	Bolton PCT	4
5J9	Darlington PCT	1
5K7	Camden PCT	7
5L1	Southampton City PCT	4
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	2
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	1
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	3
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	7
5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1
5NF	North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	4
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	1
5PF	Sandwell PCT	1
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	2
5PT	Suffolk PCT	2
5PY	South West Essex PCT	3
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	3
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1
5QV	Hertfordshire PCT	2
NNF	City Health Care Partnership	3
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1
RA9	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RAJ	Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	3
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	2
RBD	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	2

Hospital and community health services: medical consultants in the genito-urinary medicine specialty by national health service trust, as at 30 September 2010

		Number (headcount)
RBN	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RBT	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	1
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	2
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	3
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RCB	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	1
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	2
RD8	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	1
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	2
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	2
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	4
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RHW	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	2
RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	13
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	1
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	3
RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	5
RJC	South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	2
RJD	Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	1
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	2
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	2
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	2
RN3	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RN5	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	1
RNA	The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	4
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	7
RNZ	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	2
RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	3
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RPA	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	2
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	5
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	1
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	19
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	1
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	4
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	5
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RTK	Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	1
RW3	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	4
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	2
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RWW	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	2
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	8
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	4
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	17
RYQ	South London Healthcare NHS Trust	4

Hospital and community health services: medical consultants in the genito-urinary medicine specialty by national health service trust, as at 30 September 2010

		Number (headcount)
RYR	Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	4

Notes:
1. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
2. Data quality. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Genito-urinary Medicine: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action his Department is taking to increase access to *(a)* HIV testing services, *(b)* sexually transmitted infection testing services and *(c)* contraception services in (i) East Lancashire and (ii) Pendle; [65924]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that people in *(a)* East Lancashire and *(b)* Pendle are able to access information from accurate sources about HIV, sexually transmitted infections and contraception. [65925]

Anne Milton: Our new sexual health policy document to be published later this year will set out our vision for improving sexual health across England, including East Lancashire and Pendle.

We are shortly due to publish our response to the consultation exercise 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward', a copy of which will be made available in the Library. Subject to Parliament, the Health and Social Care Bill allows the Secretary of State to delegate some of his functions to other bodies, and to require local authorities to take certain steps. These steps include a plan to mandate appropriate access to sexual health services.

Health Protection Agency

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to decide on the reconfiguration of Health Protection Agency sites. [66245]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency has put forward a business case for the replacement of its microbiology laboratories at Porton Down. The Department is assessing this business case, and a decision on the way forward will be taken when the assessment is completed.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Health Protection Agency Staff will be transferred to Public Health England organisations on their existing employment terms and conditions. [66244]

Anne Milton: Staff who transfer from the Health Protection Agency into Public Health England will do so on their existing terms and conditions of employment.

Health Services

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many proposed reconfigurations of local health services he has approved on the basis of *(a)* quality and *(b)* safety since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [66188]

(2) in respect of which hospitals he has agreed to the reconfiguration of local acute health services since May 2010; and which services have been *(a)* discontinued, *(b)* downgraded and *(c)* reconfigured at each such hospital. [66189]

Mr Simon Burns: Reconfiguration of local health services is a matter for the local national health service.

Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Health, has asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to review 10 referrals to him from local overview and scrutiny committees who have contested changes to local health services. Of those 10 referrals, the Secretary of State for Health has accepted IRP advice on eight. He has yet to make a decision on the two remaining referrals.

Full details of local proposals for change, individual referrals from those overview and scrutiny committees, together with the panel's advice to the Secretary of State for Health can be found at:

www.irpanel.org.uk/view.asp?id=56

Any changes to NHS services must be to ensure patients get the best care possible, delivered to the highest standards.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the report and recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel into the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey proposals for health services; and if he will make a statement. [66190]

Mr Simon Burns: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) has now submitted its report on the proposals set down in the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy to the Secretary of State for Health.

The IRP will publish its report on its website once my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, has, in due course, fully considered the report's recommendations and made his final decision public.

Health Services: Negligence

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to address clinical negligence by health professionals in the UK who are not British nationals. [65828]

Anne Milton: All statutorily regulated health professionals, regardless of their nationality or country of origin, are subject to the standards of performance and conduct set by their regulatory body. Where individuals fall short of these standards the regulatory bodies can investigate and consider whether fitness to practise action is required.

In addition, employers and organisations that contract with health professionals also have a key role in making sure that those they engage have suitable skills to carry out the duties expected of them safely. Should the performance of such professionals, regardless of their nationality or country of origin, not meet acceptable standards then they have a duty to take appropriate action.

The role of the Responsible Officer, introduced by Parliament in January 2011, is an important statutory role in evaluating the fitness to practise of individual doctors. They will play a key role in supporting all doctors to improve the quality of care they provide and in ensuring that prompt action is taken in the small number of cases where concerns arise about the practice of individual doctors.

Medical Revalidation, which the General Medical Council is planning to introduce in late 2012, subject to a test of readiness, will provide a mechanism to re-affirm that doctors are up to date and fit to practise. Structured annual appraisals will underpin the revalidation process and these appraisals will be based on evidence from the doctor, colleagues, patients and local clinical governance systems.

Health Visitors: Training

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure health visitors have training in the identification of autism as part of his proposed health and development review. [66173]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of healthcare training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

In order to achieve the best possible outcomes for training in the identification of autism for both staff and patients alike, we are working closely with the Nursing Midwifery Council, the independent regulatory body responsible for quality assuring health visitor education and the further and higher education sectors to review the training requirements of educational programmes.

The "Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15, A Call to Action" sets out our intention to improve the quality of health visiting services for children and families. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Lancashire have HIV. [65826]

Anne Milton: In 2009, the latest year for which estimates are currently available, the Health Protection Agency has estimated that 81,500 people were living with HIV in England, of whom 26% (22,200) were unaware of their infection.

There were 126 diagnosed HIV-infected individuals living in East Lancashire Primary Care Trust in 2009. The overall number of people living with HIV (including those with undiagnosed infection) cannot be estimated at primary care trust or local authority levels.

HIV Infection: East Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action his Department is taking to reduce the number of late diagnoses of HIV in *(a)* East Lancashire and *(b)* Pendle. [65927]

Anne Milton: We understand that NHS East Lancashire has taken steps to improve early diagnosis of HIV, with a training scheme in general practice to raise awareness of HIV symptoms. This has lead to an increase in HIV testing.

The Department has also been taking action to reduce undiagnosed and late diagnosis of HIV. We invested £750,000 in eight pilot projects in high prevalence areas looking at new approaches to HIV testing in primary care, non-specialist hospital settings and community social settings.

On 1 December, the Health Protection Agency published an interim report, 'Time to test for HIV: Expanded healthcare and community HIV testing in England', on its review of these pilots. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

In 2011 the Department has also funded the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to produce an innovative web-based resource pack, for use in educating and supporting primary care professionals to increase rates of HIV testing.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in East Lancashire who are HIV positive but are not aware of their infection. [65936]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency has advised that estimates of the number of people living with HIV, who are unaware of their status, cannot be made at primary care trust level.

HIV Infection: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Pendle were diagnosed with HIV in each of the last five years. [65827]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is shown in the following table.

Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust: New HIV diagnoses by year of diagnosis, 2006-2010.

	Year of diagnosis				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
HIV diagnoses	11	14	21	23	17

Notes:

1. These data represent new HIV diagnoses made in East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust which includes but is not limited to the borough of Pendle. It is not possible to present new HIV diagnosis data at local authority level. The geographical region presented relates to area of diagnosis and does not necessarily reflect patient residence.

2. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections. Diagnoses are from reports received to end December 2010. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.

Infant Mortality: Disadvantaged

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons public health guidance on reducing infant mortality among those living in disadvantaged circumstances has been suspended; and when he expects such guidance to be re-issued. [66107]

Anne Milton: The development of this guidance was suspended because of the overlap with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on Pregnancy and Complex Social Factors (CG110) issued in September 2010. This guidance addressed the additional antenatal needs of women in vulnerable groups, including young women under 20, with a view to improving outcomes and reducing mortality. This group of young women under 20 was the proposed focus of the suspended guidance. We will review the need for additional NICE guidance in the context of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" (Cm 7985) and further policy development around infant, maternal and child health.

Learning Disability

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in relation to the recommendations of the report by Professor Jim Mansell entitled "Raising our Sights". [66294]

Paul Burstow: The written ministerial statement on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, announced the Government's response to Professor Mansell's report, "Raising our Sights: Services for Adults with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities". We accept and support the conclusions of the report, which was commissioned by the Department.

The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which the Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities, and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

I announced on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 13-15WS, that I have asked officials to draw together the key lessons from the reviews being undertaken by the Care Quality Commission, the national health service and safeguarding boards into the events at Winterbourne View hospital. The recommendations of the Mansell report will be addressed within that work and Professor Mansell is assisting the Department in the examination of the issues.

On 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 49WS, a written ministerial statement announced continued Government support to help improve the health and lives of people with learning disabilities:

Extending the Department's contract with the Norah Fry Research Centre for a further two years to March 2013 to run a confidential inquiry into the premature and avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities.

Continued support by the Department for a further two years to March 2013 of a public health observatory service in relation to people with learning disabilities, currently hosted by North East Public Health Observatory.

Continued funding by the Department in 2011-12 of up to £200,000 to support the work of the National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties and the National Valuing Families Forum. The Fora have a key role in helping Government understand the issues and challenges that people with learning disabilities and their families and carers face.

Leukaemia

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia who are expected to require second-line therapy in the next 12 months. [65839]

Paul Burstow: No estimate has been made of the number of patients diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) who are expected to require second-line therapy in the next 12 months. CML is very rare and it is estimated that about 560 people are diagnosed with CML in the United Kingdom each year.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the preliminary decision of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence not to recommend dasatinib, nilotinib and high dose imatinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia. [66112]

Paul Burstow: We have made no such assessment. Ministers are clear that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body and must be free to develop its technology appraisal guidance based on the best available evidence.

Medical Treatments

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost per quality-adjusted life year of each treatment recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as a result of a technology appraisal in each year since 2007-08. [65868]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. I have asked the chief executive of NICE to write to the hon. Member with this information. A copy will be placed in the Library.

NHS Commissioning Board

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* midwives and *(b)* pharmacists are represented in commissioning consortia. [66081]

Mr Simon Burns: Aside from the inclusion alongside general practitioners of at least one registered nurse and a doctor who is a secondary care specialist, we do not intend to prescribe in detail the wider clinical professional membership of commissioning groups' governing bodies. We agree with the NHS Future Forum's report that it would be unhelpful for clinical commissioning groups' governing bodies to be representative of every professional clinical group. The prime purpose of a governing body should be to take key decisions and make sure that clinical commissioning groups have the right systems in place to do their job well. These systems will ensure they involve the full range of health and care professionals in commissioning.

In addition, the Government are proposing a number of changes in the light of the Future Forum report to provide greater assurance that commissioning will involve a wide range of doctors, nurses and other health and care professionals. For example, we will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant. Clinical commissioning groups will also receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services.

These systems will ensure they involve the full range of health and care professionals in commissioning.

NHS: Debts

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations were in deficit in each year since 1997; and what the level of deficit was in each case. [67359]

Mr Simon Burns: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Manpower

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of future workforce requirements in the NHS in each strategic health authority. [66967]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the 2011-12 integrated planning process, strategic health authorities are preparing plans and projections on the workforce requirements in each region up to March 2015. These will be published in the summer in strategic health authority board papers.

NHS: Pensions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received an annual payment under the NHS pension scheme in each financial year since 1997-98; how many are forecast to receive an annual payment under that scheme in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2015-16; and what the average annual payment in each year was or is forecast to be for each financial year from 1997-98 to 2015-16. [65832]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of people who received annual payments under the NHS pension scheme and the average annual payments from 1997-98 to 2010-11 are included in the following table:

	Number of people who received annual payment under the NHS pension scheme	*Average annual payments under the NHS pension scheme (£)*
1997-98	428,946	10,602
1998-99	442,694	11,931
1999-2000	450,900	11,809
2000-01	462,000	11,309
2001-02	473,380	11,212
2002-03	488,889	11,088
2003-04	503,793	10,811
2004-05	520,167	10,912
2005-06	536,407	11,306
2006-07	558,079	11,238
2007-08	583,705	11,532
2008-09	610,248	11,455
2009-10	638,610	11,454
2010-11	669,090	10,641

Information forecasting the number of people who will receive an annual payment from 2010-11 to 2015-16 is not available to the NHS Pensions Agency but the forecast total annual payments from 2011-12 are as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	5,113
2012-13	5,547
2013-14	5,955
2014-15	6,404
2015-16	6,891

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the expenditure of his Department on *(a)* employer contributions to NHS pensions and *(b)* outlays on NHS pension scheme (i) if there were no changes to levels of contributions, (ii) if there were no changes to final salary pension schemes, (iii) if there were no changes to the retirement age and (iv) if pensions were linked to the retail prices index in each year from 2010-11 to 2015-16. [65833]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out actual and estimated employer contributions to the NHS Pensions Agency for the period 2010-11 to 2015-16 based on information presented in the Office for Budgetary Responsibility's Spring Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2011. These figures assume there were no changes to levels of contributions, no changes to final salary pension schemes and no changes to retirement age.

	Actual (£000)	*Forecast (£ billion)*				
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Employer contributions	5,553,234	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1
Forecast expenditure	6,931,349	7.1	7.7	8.1	8.7	9.3

These figures include the effects of indexation based on consumer prices index (CPI) as the measure of inflation for forecast expenditure. The use of the retail prices index (RPI) would increase expenditure in these years as currently the RPI is higher than that of the CPI and therefore using RPI for indexation purposes would increase the level of expenditure forecast for these years.

Discussions of other changes to public service pensions with trades unions are ongoing and as such, changes to the employer contribution rate, proposed changes to final salary pensions and proposed changes to the retirement age have not been incorporated into the forecast.

Nutrition: Health Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons public health guidance on using the media to promote healthy eating has been suspended; and when he expects such guidance to be re-issued. [66108]

Anne Milton: The Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to place a small number of public health topics on hold while we determine the most effective ways of approaching major public health issues, taking into account developments in these areas. In relation to guidance on healthy eating, we are currently considering whether there is sufficient new evidence to inform guidance development. We currently have no timescale for a decision on this topic.

School Milk

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to *(a)* mark World School Milk Day 2011 and *(b)* promote the uptake of free nursery and subsidised school milk. [65964]

Anne Milton: The Department has no plans to mark World School Milk Day on 28 September 2011.

The Nursery Milk Scheme has been running for many years and we believe that awareness of the scheme is high, with over 50,000 child care providers currently registered with the Nursery Milk Reimbursement Unit. The Nursery Milk Scheme is the only milk scheme run by the Department.

Sexual Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department plans to put in place for provision of contraceptive and sexual health services during the change in NHS commissioning arrangements. [66109]

Anne Milton: "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward" published on 14 July 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library, states that local authorities will assume responsibility for commissioning most contraception and other sexual health services from 1 April 2013. The national health service will remain responsible for commissioning these services up to that date. As with other elements of public health commissioning, the Department, the NHS and the new public health structures will work together to ensure the continued provision of high quality services during the transition period and transfer of commissioning responsibilities.

Telemedicine

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 651W, on telemedicine, what the timetable is for publication of the *(a)* analysis and *(b)* findings of the Whole System Demonstrator programme; [65878]

(2) what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the findings of the Whole System Demonstrator programme; and if he will make a statement; [65879]

(3) when he plans to publish the reports on the outcomes of the Whole System Demonstrator programme; and if he will make a statement. [66004]

Paul Burstow: Recruiting over 6,000 people to the Whole System Demonstrator programme took considerable time and effort. The study itself is focused on five detailed themes, making it what we believe to be the largest randomised control trial of telehealth and telecare in the world. The result has been considerable amounts of data that are currently undergoing detailed analysis, to be followed by peer review.

As soon as that analysis and review is completed, the results will be made public and the Department can assess what further action is appropriate.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standards the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate sets in respect of the provision of housing and care by designated establishments under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [66116]

Lynne Featherstone: Standards for the housing and care of laboratory animals are set out in separate codes of practice for scientific procedure establishments and breeding and supplying establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. These codes of practice can be accessed through the Home Office website.

Animal Experiments: Dogs

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to require companies building new facilities for breeding dogs for use in scientific procedures to comply with *(a)* UK Codes of Practice for housing and care and *(b)* standards set out in European Directive 2010/63/EU. [65369]

Lynne Featherstone: Under standard condition 2 applicable to certificates of designation granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, designated breeding and supplying establishments must ensure that the areas of the establishment approved for the housing of protected animals are maintained to at least the standards set out in the Home Office Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals in Designated Breeding and Supplying Establishments except where variations are authorised by the Secretary of State.

Standard condition 9 requires that in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals used in Scientific Procedures, all protected animals must at all times be provided with adequate care and accommodation appropriate to their type or species. Any restrictions on the extent to which such an animal can satisfy its physiological and ethological needs shall be kept to the absolute minimum; and the health and well-being of protected animals, and the environmental conditions in all parts of the establishment where protected animals are kept, shall be checked at least once daily by competent persons. Arrangements shall be made to ensure that any suffering or defect discovered is remedied as quickly as possible.

The mandatory standards of housing and care of animals set out in Annex III to European Directive 2010/63/EU must be implemented from 1 January 2013. Standard conditions will be reviewed to take account of these requirements when the new Directive is transposed into United Kingdom legislation.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many exceptions have been granted for dogs by her Department under section 10, subsection (3), of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date; what the grounds were for each exception granted; what the purpose was of the project licence under which each such exception was granted; what the country of origin was in each case; and where each such dog was obtained from. [65590]

Lynne Featherstone: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011 by Baroness Neville-Jones, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA1, on animal experimentation, when she will report on the outcome of her Department's public consultation on European Union Directive 2010/63/EU; and if she will make a statement. [67007]

Lynne Featherstone: The closing date for the public consultation on the transposition of European Union Directive 2010/63/EU is 5 September 2011. We aim to report on the outcome within three months of the closing date.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland was in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity banding at the end of 2010. [67048]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, 37% of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that were in force at the end of 2010 were in a mild severity banding, 58% in moderate, 2% in substantial and 3% were in an unclassified severity banding.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were recorded in Scotland in 2010; and how many such infringements led to a prosecution. [67052]

Lynne Featherstone: Four infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were reported at designated establishments in Scotland during 2010. No prosecutions resulted.

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were released on pre-charge police bail for each type of offence in each of the last three years; [64747]

(2) how many people failed to return to a police station after being released on police bail in each of the last three years. [64748]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on suspects detained by the police, held by the Home Office, cannot separately identify persons released on pre-charge bail, or those failing to return to a police station.

Chief Coroner

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence her Department holds on the financial effects on her Department over each of the next five years of appointing a chief coroner with the functions provided for by the Coroner and Justice Act 2009. [65187]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Department holds no evidence of the financial effects of the chief coroner on the Home Office. The cost of appointing a chief coroner would fall to the Ministry of Justice.

Closed Circuit Television

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many CCTV cameras there were per head of population in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each month since January 2010; [65948]

(2) how many CCTV cameras per square mile there were in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each month since January 2010. [65949]

James Brokenshire: The information is not held centrally

Control Orders

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been subjected to control orders that included relocation orders; and how many such individuals have subsequently absconded. [61907]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Of the 52 individuals ever subject to control orders, 22 individuals have been required to relocate under the obligations of their control order. Of these, one individual subsequently absconded in 2007.

Other individuals subject to a control order have relocated for voluntary reasons.

Crime: Victims

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of families of a victim of murder or manslaughter outside of the UK were allocated a family liaison officer by their local police force in the last 12 months. [64938]

James Brokenshire: Family liaison officers may be appointed by the police service to assist the families of those murdered or missing in suspicious circumstances overseas when there is an investigative role for them to undertake. Early contact with the family by a family liaison officer is thought to be of great benefit to both the affected family and the investigation team.

Information on the proportion of families of a victim of murder or manslaughter outside of the UK that were allocated a family liaison officer is not held centrally.

Death: British Nationals Abroad

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to police forces on liaison with foreign police forces in investigating the death of a British national when that death occurred overseas; and if she will make a statement. [65282]

James Brokenshire: Guidance on this subject is issued to police forces by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) within appendix 3 of the Family Liaison Officer Guidance 2008. Appendix 3 deals solely with 'Deaths Abroad' and contains 'Foreign and Commonwealth Office Guidance on British Nationals Murdered or Missing in Suspicious Circumstance Abroad'. A copy of the guidance will be placed in the House Library.

This appendix is to be replaced by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) drawn up between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, ACPO and the Coroners Society of England and Wales which will ensure a joined up approach by all parties when the death of a British national occurs abroad. The MOU is currently in draft form pending sign off by the relevant parties.

Defence and Security Equipment International: Police

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of policing the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition between 13 and 16 September 2011. [65588]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has not made an estimate of the cost of policing this event, as this is a matter for the Metropolitan police. Forces are able to apply for a special grant from the Home Office for policing operations in cases where the event is exceptional and unforeseen, subject to the costs meeting certain criteria. No special grant application has been received in relation to this exhibition.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving officers in the Metropolitan Police Force were authorised to accept outside sources of remuneration, employment or consultancy in the latest period for which figures are available. [66218]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

DNA: Databases

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categorisation her Department assigns to the police work undertaken by *(a)* missing persons units and *(b)* the National DNA Database. [54715]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* In their recent report 'Demanding Times', Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) defined and categorised police roles. The report can be found at:

www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Work on the national DNA database is outside of the scope of the HMIC definition.

Domestic Violence

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases by domestic abuse incidents were reported in each constituency in each of the last four years. [66085]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The number of reported domestic violence incidents is not collected by constituency. However, the available information is shown in the following table which shows the number of reported domestic violence incidents by police force area, 2006-07 to 2009-10.

Number of reported domestic violence incidents by police force area, 2006-07 to 2009-10[1]

Police force area	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	15,532	10,719	12,513	16,049
Bedfordshire	7,341	7,289	8,095	8,693
Cambridgeshire	[2]6,874	8,908	11,353	11,603
Cheshire	6,544	4,865	5,491	5,347
Cleveland	10,845	10,879	12,205	13,685
Cumbria	4,372	4,515	4,700	5,079
Derbyshire	11,818	16,425	17,145	18,059
Devon and Cornwall	[2]13,973	23,789	25,872	26,181
Dorset	5,458	5,867	6,517	6,437
Durham	8,163	8,615	[2]8,219	[2]6,054
Dyfed-Powys	9,758	2,836	2,201	2,034
Essex	15,225	17,826	24,668	23,300
Gloucestershire	8,237	8,921	8,697	[2]7,218
Greater Manchester	64,727	[2]35,971	[2]54,055	68,991
Gwent	2,229	7,399	[2]9,605	[2]4,832
Hampshire	23,447	22,912	21,234	24,117
Hertfordshire	10,926	11,280	11,780	11,835
Humberside	12,752	13,444	12,536	15,325
Kent	[2]18,495	20,141	20,710	21,516
Lancashire	22,360	23,030	25,518	28,270
Leicestershire	24,439	9,033	10,651	11,149
Lincolnshire	6,110	5,712	7,125	7,751
London, City of	97	116	[2]243	[2]141
Merseyside	25,568	29,033	30,169	27,110
Metropolitan Police	[2]67,201	84,026	[2]120,720	120,351
Norfolk	7,893	6,241	7,097	9,193
North Wales	[2]9,682	9,860	9,434	10,951
North Yorkshire	5,759	5,466	5,891	9,422
Northamptonshire	6,780	9,586	10,479	10,697
Northumbria	[2]23,262	25,803	26,809	28,318
Nottinghamshire	17,534	19,166	19,657	19,537
South Wales	15,421	[2]16,196	18,423	8,389
South Yorkshire	17,819	16,027	15,829	20,321
Staffordshire	[2]17,672	18,584	19,333	13,927
Suffolk	5,339	[2]6,061	6,021	7,319
Surrey	11,528	10,803	10,779	12,556
Sussex	14,430	15,877	18,872	15,989
Thames Valley	[2]16,744	26,383	26,759	30,839
Warwickshire	[2]6,014	7,305	7,908	8,008
West Mercia	[2]11,775	13,241	[2]15,100	[2]15,444
West Midlands	40,233	37,897	40,980	47,729
West Yorkshire	34,400	30,276	28,412	27,976
Wiltshire	6,600	6,433	6,242	5,783
England and Wales	671,374	674,756	766,047	793,526

[1] All data are provisional and unverified with forces.

[2] Data are estimated for non-response, based on ratios in other forces (e.g. domestic violence incidents; total violence against the person offences).

Driving Offences: Fines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many fixed penalty notices were issued for vehicle insurance offences in each police authority area in each of the last five years; [65494]

(2) how many fixed penalty notices were issued for vehicle registration and excise offences in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [65495]

James Brokenshire: Available data from 2005 to 2009 (latest published data) are provided in the table.

Data for 2010 are scheduled for publication April 2012.

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for various offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2005-09

Offence description	*Vehicle insurance offences*					*Vehicle registration and excise licence offences*				
Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset[1]	63	115	289	0	420	7,537	8,020	10,362	8,248	7,861
Bedfordshire	62	154	9	0	0	353	360	495	424	208
Cambridgeshire	53	138	193	321	335	1,017	1,455	1,138	1,189	933
Cheshire	101	203	137	106	319	1,445	1,112	1,630	1,743	1,412

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for various offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2005-09

Offence description	*Vehicle insurance offences*					*Vehicle registration and excise licence offences*				
Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Cleveland	159	102	100	113[1]	137	731	424	655	502	347
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	170	196	279	411	251
Derbyshire	0	112	314	182	250	433	497	613	815	401
Devon and Cornwall	42	80	169	201	301	8,145	10,775	10,914	7,169	6,261
Dorset	0	0	323	498	601	143	241	588	897	1,008
Durham	7	13	1	0	0	109	200	127	211	104
Essex	6	362	790	935	1,081	158	475	1,255	1,409	1,269
Gloucestershire	0	3	163	140	192	51	118	191	83	156
Greater Manchester	13	3	2	0	0	2,029	2,886	5,084	6,081	2,318
Hampshire	125	393	635	858	1,087	2,371	3,189	3,096	2,342	1,568
Hertfordshire	389	532	776	849	1,167	3,299	1,069	3,705	1,985	1,989
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	740	989	1,366	2,305	873
Kent	31	249	303	256	473	1,505	1,699	1,905	1,894	1,551
Lancashire	174	409	739	1,028	1,079	2,162	1,672	1,565	2,158	1,667
Leicestershire	19	212	336	276	308	112	1,073	1,251	801	850
Lincolnshire	0	46	28	44	95	1,031	1,729	1,029	1,111	589
London, City of	9	51	37	38	51	1,989	1,849	1,318	1,057	693
Merseyside	0	102	206	444	1,009	526	471	833	2,267	1,681
Metropolitan Police	490	1,408	2,638	2,348	2,172	3,654	4,926	5,270	5,335	3,429
Norfolk	0	1	111	376	523	176	339	399	699	574
North Yorkshire	92	121	147	240	285	877	880	1,027	1,221	1,457
Northamptonshire	93	74	107	171	336	1,455	624	406	298	280
Northumbria	4	12	33	25	64	15,761	13,846	6,200	3,004	840
Nottinghamshire	101	162	154	139	146	1,187	1,124	1,197	915	720
South Yorkshire	0	0	141	482	676	1,080	1,136	1,515	1,433	1,706
Staffordshire	152	274	389	435	783	2,136	1,802	1,370	1,385	968
Suffolk	0	95	296	756	549	561	792	965	1,004	915
Surrey	0	12	36	440	436	581	1,008	554	1,797	1,640
Sussex	0	115	491	820	1,065	60	554	1,052	1,091	1,366
Thames Valley	0	0	673	875	730	746	414	2,081	1,436	1,015
Warwickshire	70	146	173	167	290	773	527	413	391	401
West Mercia	32	281	375	515	440	1,158	1,310	1,287	1,383	1,017
West Midlands	0	3	14	95	210	662	735	916	1,918	1,270
West Yorkshire	104	328	809	1,021	1,178	1,559	1,690	2,658	2,367	2,228
Wiltshire	0	141	367	554	489	380	578	789	945	1,096
England	2,391	6,452	12,504	15,748	19,277	68,862	72,784	77,498	71,724	54,912
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	153	197	218	299	275	384	414
Gwent[2]	0	0	53	181	281	377	682	460	647	709
North Wales	297	200	403	306	290	2,077	1,337	1,678	1,137	1,033
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	166	458	337	632	397
Wales	297	200	456	640	768	2,838	2,776	2,750	2,800	2,553
England and Wales	2,688	6,652	12,960	16,388	20,045	71,700	75,560	80,248	74,524	57,465

[1] Figure for vehicle insurance offences for 2008 to be reviewed.

[2] Figure for vehicle insurance offences for 2008 revised since original publication.

Entry Clearances: Indian Subcontinent

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average the British high commission in *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Sri Lanka took to process a visit visa application in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [66208]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Average days to process		
Location	*Family visit*	*Other visitor*	*All visits*
Chennai (BDHC)	4.1	4.0	4.0
Colombo (BHC)	1.5	1.5	1.5
Dhaka (BHC)	7.3	4.6	5.9
Islamabad (BHC)	7.7	6.3	6.8
Mumbai (BHC)	5.7	6.3	6.2
New Delhi (BHC)	6.5	4.7	5.4

Notes:
1. Figures are for the period April 2010 to March 2011.
2. The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Mongolia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* student and *(b)* tourist visas her Department has issued to Mongolian nationals in each of the last five years; [66660]

(2) how many visa applications made by Mongolian nationals were refused in each of the last five years. [66643]

Damian Green: The information requested by my hon. Friend about visa applications from Mongolian nationals in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Visa applications from Mongolian nationals 2006-10

	Visa applications refused	Tourist visas issued[1]	Student visas issued[2]
2006	540	754	278
2007	836	893	1,262
2008	1,559	331	663
2009	960	339	750
2010	867	325	659

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[1] General visitors only, excluding family and special types of visitors.

[2] Includes visas issued under PBS Tier 4 which was introduced in 2008.

Note:

This information is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Fixed Penalties: Noise

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices for noise offences were issued in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years. [65759]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 July 2011]*: Available data from 2000 to 2009 (latest published data) are provided in the table.

Data for 2010 are scheduled for publication in April 2012.

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for noise offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2000-09

Police force area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Avon and Somerset	36	44	27	31	26	34	60	30	57	64
Bedfordshire	5	9	6	4	6	9	12	10	27	10
Cambridgeshire	10	9	10	10	22	21	57	53	25	18
Cheshire	5	10	16	12	14	21	38	24	29	66
Cleveland	4	11	5	11	23	19	15	10	7	8
Cumbria	4	6	7	14	13	35	45	32	62	36
Derbyshire	18	13	9	16	16	17	16	11	7	17
Devon and Cornwall	26	28	47	35	56	47	48	127	81	233
Dorset	24	18	14	15	10	8	15	15	19	14
Durham	20	25	24	18	13	16	14	13	7	6
Essex	52	40	61	20	35	45	60	109	95	99
Gloucestershire	13	24	14	10	4	9	12	9	3	6
Greater Manchester	50	51	44	34	52	26	29	19	46	243
Hampshire	14	21	22	25	32	38	39	44	53	73
Hertfordshire	7	11	10	7	14	21	60	18	12	7
Humberside	10	11	8	12	5	14	26	31	30	26
Kent	34	24	36	38	34	109	73	39	72	152
Lancashire	93	51	49	85	81	49	31	29	19	96
Leicestershire	2	5	10	11	3	1	7	12	5	4
Lincolnshire	9	14	5	182	251	218	20	34	37	25
London, City of	1	4	1	86	32	25	17	4	1	5
Merseyside	13	22	31	8	17	20	8	23	33	48
Metropolitan Police	77	57	33	65	83	76	71	108	116	91
Norfolk	25	23	29	17	29	38	30	21	41	32
North Yorkshire	89	59	35	91	252	126	162	202	77	170
Northamptonshire	0	0	3	4	0	2	1	13	5	2
Northumbria	48	93	72	90	111	35	34	34	29	66
Nottinghamshire	3	2	1	5	7	10	10	13	8	17
South Yorkshire	9	21	11	11	23	17	19	18	11	20
Staffordshire	10	12	10	12	12	14	13	18	17	224
Suffolk	24	20	22	10	18	53	58	75	137	11
Surrey	0	9	49	35	33	13	15	5	16	16
Sussex	13	17	32	14	15	11	18	18	14	22
Thames Valley	42	58	28	39	90	59	24	44	44	32
Warwickshire	4	5	3	12	9	8	7	10	11	12
West Mercia	26	45	51	35	30	83	81	124	106	134
West Midlands	19	23	7	21	23	14	30	41	37	35
West Yorkshire	13	16	17	25	22	17	32	21	32	28
Wiltshire	22	26	18	38	25	24	24	13	20	27
England	874	937	877	1,208	1,541	1,402	1,331	1,474	1,448	2,195
Dyfed-Powys	5	10	8	42	8	13	11	14	12	33
Gwent	20	31	29	31	34	32	59	25	31	37
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	6	53	55	80	68
South Wales	21	19	17	10	27	22	18	27	35	43
Wales	46	60	54	83	69	73	141	121	158	181

Number of substantive fixed penalty notices issued for noise offences, by police force area, England and Wales 2000-09

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England and Wales	920	997	931	1,291	1,610	1,475	1,472	1,595	1,606	2,376

Hillsborough Independent Panel

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is for the Hillsborough Independent Panel; how much expenditure has been incurred; and when she expects the work of the panel to be completed. [60387]

James Brokenshire: As at the end of the financial year 2010-11, expenditure of £2.07 million has been incurred. I understand that the Bishop of Liverpool, the chairman of the Hillsborough Independent Panel, expects to be able to complete the work of the panel in spring 2012 and within the initial budget estimate of £4 million to £6 million.

Human Trafficking: Domestic Service

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases accepted for consideration as victims of trafficking by the national referral mechanism were trafficked into domestic servitude in the latest period for which figures are available. [66478]

Damian Green: Between 1 April 2009 and 13 July 2011, 290 cases were referred to the national referral mechanism (NRM) as potential victims of trafficking for domestic servitude.

Of the 290 referrals that have had a decision, 167 cases have a positive reasonable grounds decision, of which 79 have a positive conclusive grounds decision.

Khat

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of reported criminal offences that have been linked to the use of khat in the last three years. [64755]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Home Office has not made an estimate of the number of reported criminal offences that have been linked to the use of khat. Although the Home Office collects data on the number of recorded criminal offences, it is not possible to link these data to the use of khat.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary, as part of its inquiry into how intelligence that supports the policing of protest involving criminal activity is prioritised, gathered, assessed and managed by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU), (1) to examine and report on *(a)* the role of the NPOIU in the disclosure of evidence critical to a defence, *(b)* the time at which evidence critical to a defence was received by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and *(c)* the nature of discussions between the NPOIU and the CPS on the (i) timing and (ii) appropriateness of such disclosure; [64410]

(2) to examine and report on the policy of supervising officers on *(a)* sexual activity and *(b)* illegal drug use by undercover officers; [64411]

(3) to examine and report on the policy of the NPOIU on the use of undercover officers in relation to groups which do not espouse or practise violence; and if she will make a statement on her policy on such matters. [64412]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 July 2011]:* In January 2011, Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) announced that it would carry out a review of the work conducted by the National Domestic Extremism Units, including consideration of how they manage intelligence. The terms of reference for the review have been published on their website. The Home Office will consider conclusions of the review in due course.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is carrying out a separate independent investigation into disclosure issues around specific cases. The Director of Public Prosecution has also commissioned a separate review of the Crown Prosecution Service decisions on this specific case.

North Yorkshire Police Authority: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the North Yorkshire Police Authority spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) each subsequent year. [65930]

James Brokenshire: While the Government provides core police funding, spending decisions are made locally by the chief constables and police authorities. Data on expenditure are not collected centrally. However, these data are published annually by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

North Yorkshire Police: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* police civilian staff were employed by North Yorkshire police force in (i) May 2010 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [65602]

James Brokenshire: Figures are not collected for May 2010. As at 31 March 2010, there were 1,486 police officers, 198 police community support officers and 1,158 police civilian staff employed in the North Yorkshire police force.

The latest published figures show that as at 30 September 2010, there were 1,452 police officers, 187 police community support officers and 1,153 police civilian staff employed in the North Yorkshire police force.

These figures are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average daily proportion of time spent on patrol by police officers in each of the last 10 years. [53455]

James Brokenshire: The measure of patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. Activity (such as advice to a member of the public) carried out while on patrol is recorded separately. The percentage of time spent on patrol therefore appears low and it is misleading to look at this element in isolation from other activities. Under this measure, officers spent 13.8% of their time on patrol in 2007-08 (the last year for which data are available) compared with between 13.6% and 15.3% in the four preceding years.

Data were not collected before 2003 and have not been collected since 2007-08.

The estimated proportion of time spent on patrol by officers over the course of a two week period police are given in the following table.

Year[1]	*Time spent on patrol*[2] *(percentage)*
2003-04[3]	14.20
2004-05	15.30
2005-06	14.00
2006-07	13.60
2007-08[4]	13.80

[1] Data were not collected before 2003. The information is taken from activity analysis, which is collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.

[2] Includes officers on foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic officers.

[3] Data were not collected before 2003.

[4] Excluding Staffordshire.

Police: Accountability

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the proposals for secondary legislation governing the procedures for election of police commissioners. [65520]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is currently before Parliament. Secondary legislation will follow Royal Assent.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the standardisation of forms used by police forces in England and Wales. [58279]

James Brokenshire: The Government are working closely with the Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board, chaired by Chief Constable Chris Sims, to cut police bureaucracy. As part of this work, where bureaucracy can be reduced through the standardisation of police forms the Board will take action.

Police: Conditions of Employment

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on serving police officers being authorised to undertake other paid employment in their own time. [66219]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: It is for chief officers to approve or refuse applications by serving police officers for business interests or additional employment. The Police Regulations 2003 place restrictions on the private lives of police officers designed to secure the proper exercise of the functions of a constable. Guidance on the management of business interests and additional occupations for police officers has been issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Probation: Information and Communications Technology

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was, at current prices, of the Probation Office's IT systems upgrade and case records and management system (Crams). [65630]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Rollout of the National Probation Service Information Systems Strategy (NPSISS), for a common high quality information technology infrastructure and a case recording and management system (CRAMS) across probation services in England and Wales, commenced in 1995. Costs for NPSISS and CRAMS were reported in a National Audit Office Report on "The Implementation of the National Probation Service Information Systems Strategy", published on 23 April 2001. This stated full anticipated economic costs of NPSISS infrastructure, support and CRAMS, together with expenditure by individual probation services on supplementary equipment and software, as £125 million by the end of 2001. This figure is at 2001 prices: a more precise calculation of the monetary value of CRAMS at current prices could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: Greater London

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her response to Lady Justice Hallett's report under rule 43 of the Coroner's Rules 1984 relating to the coroner's inquests into the London bombings of 7 July 2005; and if she will make a statement. [66463]

James Brokenshire: Under the coroners Rules 1984, it is for the coroner to provide a copy of the Government response to the Lord Chancellor and to any person she has designated an Interested Person in the inquests' proceedings. It is also for her to provide it to anyone who she believes may find it useful or of interest. It is then for the Lord Chancellor to consider publishing the responses to the inquests report, including the Government response.

Under these rules, I cannot make any substantive statement on the response until publication, but once this has taken place my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department will make a statement to the House.

Travel Requirements

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussion she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on changes to limits on travel within the EU and the implications of any such change for travel to and from the Irish Republic. [63385]

Damian Green: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has not had any discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive on this issue.

UK Border Agency: Redundancy

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects of proposed job reductions at the UK Border Agency on *(a)* levels of illegal immigration and *(b)* other security threats at UK borders. [65591]

Damian Green: The priority of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) remains to secure the border and to control migration while it plays its part in reducing the public deficit. The Agency will be smaller, but more efficient, and we believe it will still be able to deliver its commitments. This is set out in the Agency's Business Plan, UKBA Business Plan 2011-15.

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Offences Against Children

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the inclusion on the sex offender register of those convicted of offences related to the sexual abuse of children. [65153]

Lynne Featherstone: Schedule 3 to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 clearly sets out the offences that will make an individual subject to the notification requirements (commonly referred to as the Sex Offenders' register). This schedule includes a number of offences which relate to sexually harmful behaviour towards children.

CABINET OFFICE

Deaths: Cancer

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the mortality rate of cancer patients in *(a)* Barnsley Central, *(b)* South Cambridgeshire and *(c)* Witney constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [66174]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the mortality rate of cancer patients in (a) Barnsley Central, (b) South Cambridgeshire and (c) Witney constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (66174)

The table following provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where the underlying cause of death was cancer, for persons in (a) Barnsley Central parliamentary constituency, (b) South Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency and (c) Witney parliamentary constituency, for 2009 (the latest year available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, Barnsley Central, South Cambridgeshire, and Witney parliamentary constituencies, 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Rate per 100,000 population		
		95% Confidence interval	
Parliamentary constituency	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
Barnsley Central	193	168	218
South Cambridgeshire	152	132	171
Witney	133	116	150

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 (malignant neoplasms).

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66331]

Mr Maude: All Departments and their non-departmental bodies are subject to the civil service-wide freeze on external recruitment. By exception only, after ministerial approval is given, Departments may recruit externally to fill high priority, business critical vacancies. The numbers of staff recruited externally by the Cabinet Office and its non-departmental bodies during 2010-11 are as follows:

Cabinet Office: 33

The Boundary Commission: 0

National School of Government: 2

The Civil Service Commission: 0.

Both the Commission for the Compact and Capacitybuilders ceased operations on 31 March 2011. Information on recruitment is no longer available for these organisations.

The Cabinet Office's other NDPBs during 2010-11 are advisory bodies whose work is supported by Cabinet Office staff. Information is therefore included in figures for the Cabinet Office overall:

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

Civil Service Appeal Board

Committee on Standards in Public Life
House of Lords Appointments Commission
Main Honours Advisory Committee
Office of the Third Sector Advisory Board
Security Commission
Security Vetting Appeals Panel
Senior Salaries Review Body.

Individual Departments and agencies are responsible for making civil servants redundant, and the information requested is not currently recorded centrally. However, Departments will be reporting information about the numbers and costs of their redundancies and other early exits in their Resource Accounts this year.

New compensation terms were introduced in December 2010. Severance pay is now calculated on the basis of one month's pay per year of service to a maximum of 21 months' pay on voluntary exits and a maximum of 12 months' pay on compulsory redundancy. Additional capping and tapering apply where individuals are over, or very close to, pension age. The changes were introduced to make the scheme more affordable.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66348]

Mr Maude: Individual Departments and agencies are responsible for making civil servants redundant, and the information requested is not currently recorded centrally. However, Departments will be reporting information about the numbers and costs of their redundancies and other early exits in their Resource Accounts this year.

New compensation terms were introduced in December 2010. Severance pay is now calculated on the basis of one month's pay per year of service to a maximum of 21 months' pay on voluntary exits and a maximum of 12 months' pay on compulsory redundancy. Additional capping and tapering apply where individuals are over, or very close to, pension age. The changes were introduced to make the scheme more affordable.

Employment: Romania

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Romanian nationals are in employment in the UK. [66833]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many Romanian nationals are employed in the UK. 66833

According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the number of Romanian nationals employed in the UK was estimated to be 57,000 for the period January to March 2011.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from the Government estate in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66652]

Mr Maude: Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011 Government delivered a reduction of 13.8% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government commitments it is now committed to deliver a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2014-15.

It is estimated that from the office estate for June 2010 Government non-weather corrected emissions amounted to some 52,907 tonnes carbon dioxide. Departments are yet to fully report their emissions for June 2011.

Government Departments: Solar Power

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues the potential to fit solar panels to the roofs of buildings for which they are responsible; and if he will make a statement. [66461]

Mr Maude: Government reduced its carbon emissions from the office estate by 13.8% in the 12 months to May 2011. Departments have deployed a wide range of technologies, including solar panels, to reduce their demand on energy. It is for each department to decide on the most cost effective measures to achieve their ongoing carbon reduction commitments.

Hewlett Packard

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Hewlett Packard, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the application by Hewlett Packard to transfer offshore elements of its Adams 2 contract with central Government; and if he will make a statement. [65836]

Mr Maude: I have had no recent discussions with Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services (HPES) or trade unions on the application to transfer offshore elements of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adams 2 contract. I have discussed this application with ministerial colleagues and officials in DWP. DWP has an existing contract for IT services with HPES which already makes provision for delivery of services from non-UK locations. DWP is currently in discussion with HPES regarding future Adams 2 plans. These discussions have not yet been concluded and specific proposals are not yet complete.

Hewlett Packard: Department for Work and Pensions

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has had discussions with representatives of *(a)* Hewlett Packard and *(b)* trade unions on the company's applications to transfer offshore elements of the Adams 2 contract with the Department for Work and Pensions; and when he expects a decision to be taken on this application. [66987]

Mr Maude: I have had no recent discussions with Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services (HPES) or trade unions on the application to transfer offshore elements of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adams 2 contract. The DWP has an existing contract for IT services with HPES which already makes provision for delivery of services from non-UK locations. DWP is currently in discussion with HPES regarding future Adams 2 plans. These discussions have not yet been concluded and specific proposals are not yet complete.

New Businesses: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many business start-ups there have been in Redditch constituency in each of the last three years. [67494]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many business start-ups there have been in Redditch constituency in each of the last three years. [67494]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births there have been in Redditch constituency in each year since 2007.

Count of enterprise births in the constituency of Redditch from 2007-09

	Redditch
2007	340
2008	350
2009	275

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Margot James: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many non-departmental public bodies *(a)* are operational and *(b)* were operational in May 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of bodies in each such category in the latest period for which figures are available; [66268]

(2) how many non-departmental public bodies have been established in each of the last three financial years. [66270]

Mr Maude: Summary information on the size and spend of the non-departmental public body (NDPB) sector published by the Cabinet Office shows that on 31 March 2009 there were 766 NDPBs and that executive NDPBs received over £38 billion directly from the Government. Information for 2010 and 2011 will be published in due course.

Margot James: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many non-departmental public bodies have been *(a)* abolished since May 2010 and *(b)* earmarked for abolition in 2011-12. [66269]

Mr Maude: To date Departments have reported that 45 public bodies from within the scope of the public bodies review are now no longer an NDPB, or where appropriate a non-ministerial department or public corporation. The next status check is due at the end of July 2011.

Police: Business Interests

Helen Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether former senior police officers are required to clear with the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments in the Cabinet Office any contractual arrangements with external organisations contemplated within a specified period of leaving office. [66095]

Mr Maude: The business appointment rules, operated by the Cabinet Office and the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, apply to former Ministers, civil servants, and members of the diplomatic service, intelligence agencies, and the armed forces. Police officers are not subject to these rules.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Electronic Government: Petitions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects his proposed online petitions system to be operational. [66819]

Sir George Young: The Government e-petitions system will be launched shortly. Petitions which reach 100,000 signatures will be communicated to the relevant departmental Select Committee, and to the Backbench Business Committee who will want to consider such petitions for debate.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Marriage

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations to the Government of *(a)* Mali, *(b)* Benin, *(c)* Burkino Faso and *(d)* Niger on (i) raising the minimum legal age of marriage for women and (ii) setting equal minimum ages of marriage for men and women. [66125]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Investing in adolescent girls, including raising the age of marriage and first pregnancy, is at the heart of DFID's strategic vision for girls and women.

Whilst DFID does not have bilateral programmes or representation in these countries, we do provide support through multilateral programming. Together with the FCO and Home Office Joint Marriage Unit, we work with UN and EU partners, and bilaterally, to implement the UN convention on the rights of the child and its two optional protocols, and encourage countries to fulfill their obligations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66329]

Mr Duncan: Since May 2010, DFID has recruited 80 home civil servants.

Since May 2010, DFID has not made any member of staff compulsorily redundant. There have been 24 voluntary redundancies during this period. These exits were made in line with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation scheme applicable at the time.

DFID has two non-departmental public bodies, i.e. the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the newly formed Independent Commission for Aid Impact. Seven staff were recruited to DFID's non-departmental public bodies since May 2010 and no staff were made redundant.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66346]

Mr Duncan: Since May 2010, the Department for International Development DFID has spent £1,831,185 on voluntary redundancies in line with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation scheme applicable at the time of departure.

There have been no redundancies in the non-departmental bodies since May 2010.

Departmental Travel

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on transport in each category of spending in the latest period for which figures are available. [65039]

Mr Duncan: As a Government Department delivering results in developing countries, the Department for International Development (DFID) has a number of offices abroad. This is in addition to DFID's headquarters being split between two locations, East Kilbride and London.

DFID minimises travel costs as much as possible, for example by using video conferences wherever possible, and has this year reviewed its ministerial car service, opting for a more cost-effective alternative.

In financial year 2010-11, the Department for International Development spent £5.2 million on travel. The Department introduced a new travel policy in 2010-11 which reduced costs by £3.2 million (38%) from the previous financial year 2009-10, where the total figure was £8.4 million.

DFID's spending for the last two years for air, rail, mileage, taxis and the Government Car Scheme are detailed in the following table:

		£000
Category spend	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Air	7,292	4,298
Rail	493	463
Mileage	21	24
Taxis	255	193
Government Car Scheme	355	212
Total	8,416	5,190

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of its funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures his Department has provided to smallholder farmers in the latest period for which figures are available. [65886]

Mr O'Brien: Our central recording systems do not capture such detail for project expenditure. The UK Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the period 2010-12, to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. 50% of this will help developing countries adapt to climate change, a significant share of which is designed to benefit smallholder farmers.

The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to climate change. For example, DFID-funded researchers in Ethiopia are working with farmers to make better decisions in the face of risks from drought. In Kenya, DFID supports research on improved early warning so that farmers can adjust their cropping strategies to increase production.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider the merits of allocating a proportion of the sum retained for allocation in the later years of the comprehensive spending review period to pro-poor, anti-hunger agricultural growth measures through his Department's bilateral programmes. [65888]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: At least 16 of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes are currently planning programmes which will deliver improvements in the food security and nutritional status of poor people in the countries concerned. DFID also provides significant support for food security through our investments in agricultural research and our contributions to the work of relevant multilateral institutions such as the World Food Programme. Over the next four years, DFID's support will stop 10 million more children going hungry and ensure another 4 million people have enough food throughout the year.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has further allocation decisions to make in the later years of the current spending review period. These decisions will be informed by the need to meet the conditions of DFID's spending review settlement and to ensure that the Department's business plan objectives are delivered.

Developing Countries: Energy

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the recommendation of the UN Secretary General's High Level Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change that the international community should commit to ensuring universal access to basic energy services by the year 2030; and if he will make a statement. [65959]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that energy is crucial to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), both in helping to meet basic needs and in powering economic growth. With the MDGs expiring in 2015, the international community is thinking about what will come next. Clearly, climate change and energy are likely to be on the agenda. DFID is starting to engage in this process.

DFID is at the forefront of supporting the shift to renewable energy sources and of ensuring that poor people can have access to the energy that will change their lives for the better. Together with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, DFID has provided funding to the clean technology fund (CTF) and the Scaling-up Renewable Energy programme (SREP). These investments are expected to provide enough electricity to supply the equivalent of almost 16 million households in both middle and low income countries.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve access to modern energy services for people living in poverty in developing countries. [65960]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development recognises that energy is crucial to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), both in helping to meet basic needs and in powering economic growth.

DFID is at the forefront of supporting the shift to renewable energy sources and of ensuring that poor people can have access to the energy that will change their lives for the better. Our support is through both multilateral and bilateral programmes. For example, together with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, DFID has provided funding to the multilateral clean technology fund (CTF) and the Scaling-up Renewable Energy programme (SREP). These investments are expected to provide enough electricity to supply the equivalent of almost 16 million households in both middle and low income countries. Bilaterally, in Bangladesh the Rural Electrification Development Project aims to provide increased access to affordable, sustainable electricity services in poor rural areas. Facilities for 337,000 new connections in the nine poorest areas of the country have been established.

Developing Countries: Marriage

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to meet its objective of (a) working towards changing social norms that constrain women's choice and control over resources and (b) helping young women resist early and forced marriage in developing countries. [66122]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Strategic Vision for Girls and Women recognises that giving girls and women greater choice and control over decisions that affect them helps to break the cycle of poverty from one generation to the. next.

Through our country programmes in DRC and Nigeria, for example, DFID is supporting locally led action for social change, including: working with women's groups to challenge discrimination against girls and women; working with boys and men to re-dress unequal gender relationships; and supporting girls and women to participate in local and national decision making.

Investing in adolescent girls, including delaying the age of marriage and first pregnancy is at the heart of the Strategic Vision. DFID provides support to tackle early marriage in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Nigeria. In Ethiopia, our support will delay marriage for 220,000 girls in two specific locations, with the vision to expand to the entire Amhara region, which has the highest rate of child marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to encourage countries in receipt of financial support from his Department to *(a)* set and enforce a minimum legal age of marriage and *(b)* reduce the proportion of women who marry before the age of 18 years. [66124]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to protecting and promoting human rights for all people, including children. In taking decisions on the provision of aid, DFID takes into consideration the country Government's commitment to human rights.

We work through our country programmes to support Governments to tackle early marriage. In Ethiopia, our support will delay marriage for 220,000 girls in two specific locations, with the vision to expand to the entire Amhara region, which has the highest rate of child marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa. We are also working with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs in Ethiopia to develop the Government's capacity to implement national programmes to tackle early marriage.

Together with the FCO and Home Office Joint Forced Marriage Unit, we work with UN and EU partners, and bilaterally, to implement the UN convention on the rights of the child and its two optional protocols, and encourage countries to fulfill their obligations.

Monitoring: Deforestation Saatellite Communications

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Earth observation satellite technology in monitoring global deforestation. [65813]

Mr Duncan: Satellite technology has important applications for monitoring global deforestation. The data generated from satellite images can have a powerful, positive impact on increasing transparency. The UK is a member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) whose forest task group is working to support countries in establishing national forest-change monitoring systems.

Technology alone cannot provide a solution to deforestation. It is equally important to work with developing countries to build government capacity to manage data, share data and apply analysis to planning decisions. Loss of forests often comes about as a result of poor governance, which results in illegal land clearance and illegal logging. To this end the UK Government are also working with a number of key forest nations to bring about improvements to forest governance.

Horn of Africa: Agriculture

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has considered the merits of measures to build long-term resilience into the national agricultural systems of the countries of the horn of Africa. [65887]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID sees building long-term resilience into national agricultural systems as key in reducing the effects of potential food crisis in the horn and across the whole of Africa. It is for this reason the UK Government provided a £10 million grant to the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to boost agricultural productivity and improve resilience to food insecurity in Africa. CAADP is working with the national agricultural systems in Ethiopia and Kenya, among other African countries, to define strategies for halving hunger and achieving increases of 6% in agricultural growth each year through policy reform and better investment. For example, latest figures we have from 2009 show that annual agricultural growth rates were 6% in Ethiopia and 3% in Kenya.

DFID also provides resilience through country-led programmes in Africa. In Ethiopia we support the Productive Safety Net Programme which provides cash and food transfers to around 8 million vulnerable people, while in Kenya we are supporting more than 60,000 of the most vulnerable households by providing regular cash payments through our Hunger Safety Net Programme.

Overseas Aid

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of *(a)* the Department's aid reviews and *(b)* its operational plans. [65034]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 613W, which outlines the reviews I launched last year.

The Government are determined to ensure that the aid budget is used effectively and delivers value for money for both the British tax payer and the world's poorest people. The Department for International Development's aid reviews will fundamentally change the way aid funds are spent in the future with a much clearer focus on results and value for money. After a comprehensive spending review, there is normally an allocation round, which in this case was replaced by a strategic review. This review is an essential part of Government business and an improvement on the previous arrangements.

(a) The Bilateral Aid Review is estimated to have cost £137,000. The Multilateral Aid Review is estimated to have cost £72,300; the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review is estimated to have cost £269,220. These costs include visits to countries to gather information about the effectiveness on the ground and consult with key partners, external support and peer reviews where appropriate, and production of the reports. All of these were an essential part of ensuring a rigorous process. Staff across DFID also provided inputs into all three reviews.

(b) There was no additional cost to the Department for its operational plans since these form part of the Department's normal business planning arrangements.

Overseas Aid: Schools

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his review of awareness-raising programmes in the UK has resulted in changes to criteria for determining grants for work in schools; and if he will make a statement. [66466]

Mr Duncan: DFID runs one programme that provides grants for work in schools in the UK. This is the Global Schools Partnership programme which provides grants to help schools establish a partnership with a school in a developing country. The review of awareness raising programmes in the UK has not resulted in changes to the criteria for determining grants for work in schools under this scheme.

South Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to the Government of South Sudan to help it strengthen its functions; and if he will make a statement. [66458]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is committed to a long-term process of nation-building, to develop the core functions of a democratic and accountable state and to integrate South Sudan into the regional economy. We have a number of capacity-building and service delivery programmes which seek to support this, including assistance to central and state ministries, to the national and state legislative assemblies, for security sector reform, and for the establishment of a customs service.

Syria: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [66460]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I continue to be concerned about the grave situation in Syria which shows no sign of abating. Protests across the country are still being met by unacceptable violence from the regime. Violent repression will only further undermine the regime's legitimacy and raise serious questions about whether it is committed to the reforms it has recently announced. No meaningful political dialogue can take place while there is a brutal military crackdown.

The UK has made clear that President Assad is losing legitimacy and must reform or step aside. The UK will continue to work with our international partners, including in the UN, to condemn the repression in Syria and call for the Syrian Government to meet their people's legitimate demands. If the regime continues to choose the path of brutal repression, pressure from the international community will only increase.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Aviation

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential effects on carbon dioxide emissions of the commercial development and use of aircraft biofuels and biofuel jet fuel blends; and if he will make a statement. [64103]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that sustainable biofuels have a role to play in reducing CO_2 emissions from transport, particularly in sectors such as aviation where there are limited alternatives to fossil fuel.

The Government are also working towards a co-ordinated, evidence-based bioenergy strategy, including an analysis of the best use of available biomass resources, and will soon be publishing an assessment of the costs and carbon reduction potential of biofuel use in aviation.

As part of our development of a Sustainable Policy Framework for UK Aviation, the Department for Transport published a scoping document on 30 March 2011 that frames the debate on the future direction of aviation policy and asks a series of questions, including on use of biofuels in aviation. The responses to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft Framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Carbon Sequestration

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress against the scheduled objectives of the carbon capture and storage projects. [66115]

Charles Hendry: Negotiations with the Scottish Power consortium on the UK's first carbon capture and storage project are ongoing, with the aim of reaching an agreement as soon as possible. Our objective remains that this first CCS demonstration project ("Demo 1") is constructed by 2014-15 and operational as soon as possible thereafter. We also aim to launch a process by the end of the year to select further demonstration projects.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings officials in his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67217]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not have responsibility for employment-related legislation. However, in common with Partners across Government, we have been consulted throughout on the proposals for the Employment Law Review.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66571]

Gregory Barker: The following departmental property has been lost or stolen between 12 July 2010 and 12 July 2011.

Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*
Wireless internet dongle	4	0
Blackberry	4	5
Laptop	2	5
Entrust Token	4	1
RSA token	14	7
Replacement costs	£5,300	£9,435

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66583]

Gregory Barker: DECC records payments by supplier, not by contract, and the amounts in the following table relate to payments through the accounts payable system and exclude any payments that may have been made to contracted suppliers using government procurement cards (GPC). It would incur disproportionate costs to analyse GPC payments to identify which ones relate to contract suppliers.

DECC's 2010-11 spend is shown in the following table.

	Group spend (£ million)
Corporate Supports Shared Services	33.6
Energy and Climate Change International	0.9
Energy Markets and Infrastructure	42.5
National Climate Change and Consumer Support	12.1
Science and Innovation Group	1.3
Total	90.3

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66340]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not spent any money on redundancies since May 2010. The Department has responsibility for four non-departmental bodies, the:

Civil Nuclear Police Authority

Coal Authority

Committee on Climate Change

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Of these:

The Coal Authority has spent £554,000 on redundancies to 30 June 2011.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has spent £4,795,590 on redundancies as set out in the 2010-11 Annual Report and Accounts.

Regulation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials in his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67207]

Gregory Barker: Guidance documents are produced by DECC in order to help people to comply with the law. There is no formal process in place but officials aim to work collaboratively with industry stakeholders in the production of new regulatory guidance as and when it is required. The Department does not collect data on the number of officials involved in the production of guidance documents.

Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what effects his proposals for electricity market reform will have on support for the use of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [66436]

Charles Hendry: The electricity market reforms are focused on achieving the investment we need to deliver the secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity we need. EMR does not specifically focus on the uptake of electric vehicles. However, the reforms set out in the White Paper will ensure that the electricity generation is in place to support their use. It is anticipated that electrification of the heat, transport and other carbon intensive sectors may lead to a doubling of overall electricity demand by 2050.

In addition, as part of the White Paper, the Government are seeking views on how to ensure that non-generation technologies and approaches to providing capacity—which could include reducing demand at periods of system scarcity by charging electric vehicles when demand is low—could participate in a capacity mechanism on a fair and equal basis with electricity generation.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the functionality of smart metering to support smart charging of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [66438]

Charles Hendry: My officials have held various discussions with the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and Department for Transport officials, in taking forward the Smart Metering Implementation programme, including on the development of smart metering functionality requirements. These discussions have informed the Government's Response to the consultation on our "Smart Metering Prospectus", published on 30 March 2011. Officials will continue to liaise as work on the Smart Meters programme continues.

Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to the likely need to revise the assumptions made in its consideration of reform of the electricity market in the case that the electricity market reform policies are classified as levies and subject to the Control Framework for DECC levy-funded Spending. [64380]

Charles Hendry: As set out in the consultation document published in December 2010, cost-effectiveness is a key criterion in developing the electricity market reform proposals. This includes affordability for consumers and implications for the public finances if the proposals are classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spend and are therefore subject to the DECC control framework for levy-funded spending.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* investment in the energy sector, *(b)* economic growth and *(c)* employment of his decision to conduct a review of electricity market reform. [65418]

Charles Hendry: The reforms put forward in the Electricity Market Reform White Paper will facilitate a green economy, with long-term economic and sustainable growth, and are complementary to policies such as Green Deal. The EMR White Paper and impact assessment provide more details to demonstrate how that the proposed policies will lead to more investment in the electricity generation sector, enabling investment in electricity generation and transmission of around £110 billion by 2020. EMR will lead to higher revenue certainty for low-carbon generators, hence enabling not only new sources of finance but also lower costs of financing.

These reforms and our commitments to achieve emissions reduction and meet our renewable energy targets provide a basis for business and economic development in these new sectors and the creation of green jobs. The EMR White Paper and impact assessment have not undertaken any detailed assessments on the effects on overall employment levels.

Electricity: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he expects the next National Grid Electricity Transmission system operator incentives to be brought forward; [66669]

(2) what discussions he has held with Ofgem on forthcoming National Grid Electricity Transmission system operator incentives; [66670]

(3) whether he has discussed with industry representatives forthcoming National Grid Electricity Transmission system operator incentives; [66671]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the current National Grid Electricity Transmission system operator incentives; [66672]

(5) whether his Department plans to make a submission to Ofgem on forthcoming National Grid Electricity Transmission system operator incentives. [66673]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Transmission System Operator Incentive Scheme is a matter for the independent energy regulator, Ofgem, in its role of regulating the monopoly companies which run the gas and electricity networks. The consultation on proposed changes to the incentive scheme closed on 8 July. Ofgem is currently in the process of finalising its position, which it will publish soon. While this is an important issue, it is one suited to the regulator to deal with due to its technical nature, concerning the detail of economic regulation. Therefore, while the Department is tracking developments, it is not actively involved in the details of the process.

Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the proportion of UK energy supply that will come from *(a)* renewable energy, *(b)* fossil fuel-based energy and *(c)* nuclear energy in 2020. [65454]

Charles Hendry: The proportion of UK energy supply that will come from different types of energy would depend on a number of variables including fossil fuel prices, technology costs and the carbon price. Different assumptions on those variables will lead to different energy mixes. The central scenario published in DECC's latest Energy and Emission projections using DECC central fossil fuel projections, carbon values and assumptions on technology costs is summarised in the following table:

Primary energy demand, central projection	*2020 (percentage)*
Renewables and waste	13.6
Nuclear	2.9
Fossil fuels	83.1
Imported electricity	0.4

Source:
Annex H, DECC Updated Energy and Emissions Projections, June 2010

This covers all use of energy products within the UK, including those used for heat, transport, electricity generation and non-energy uses. The figures are consistent with the UK's renewable energy target.

In terms of fuels used for electricity generation, the central scenario using the same assumptions on fossil fuel prices, technology costs and carbon price for 2020 is:

All generators, central projection	*2020 (percentage)*
Renewables and waste	30.5
Nuclear	6.7
Fossil fuels	56.7
Other	6.1

Source:
Annex E, DECC Updated Energy and Emissions Projections, June 2010

This includes autogenerators and combined heat and power. The category 'other' includes imports and storage.

The full results of the projections and assumptions are described in the "Updated Energy and Emissions Projections" document

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

DECC will publish new energy and emission projections later this year.

Energy: Local Government

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which local planning authorities returned the questionnaires referred to in section 5.4 of the Parsons Brinckerhoff report Update of UK Shadow Flicker Evidence Base, published for his Department on 16 March 2011. [66397]

Gregory Barker: Responses were received from the following local planning authorities:

1. South Gloucestershire council
2. Gloucester city council
3. Tendring district council
4. Barnsley metropolitan council
5. Lancaster city council
6. Rossendale borough council
7. Uttlesford district council
8. Charnwood borough council
9. Sheffield city council
10. Warrington borough council
11. Northern Ireland Planning Service
12. City and County of Swansea
13. Orkney Islands council
14. Perth and Kinross council
15. Inverclyde council
16. The Highland council
17. North Lanarkshire council.

Fossil Fuelled Power Stations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the contribution of oil and gas-fired power stations to overall energy supply. [66690]

Charles Hendry: The contribution of oil and gas fired power stations cannot be measured in terms of overall energy supply, because this is measured in terms of primary fuel, whereas electricity generated from oil and gas is a secondary fuel.

Of overall electricity generation, provisional 2010 data show oil-fired generation contributed 0.9% and gas-fired generation contributed 46%. Final figures for 2010 will be published on 28 July 2011.

Data from table ET 5.1, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Fuel Poverty: Rural Areas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with Age Concern on fuel poverty in rural households. [66083]

Gregory Barker: The Department has regular engagement with Age UK on a variety of issues, including fuel poverty. The Department also discusses fuel poverty issues with Age UK at meetings of the Government's Fuel Poverty Advisory Group.

Fuels: Prices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations his Department has received on the cost to businesses of petrol and diesel. [66737]

Charles Hendry: I have received a number of representations on the cost of petrol and diesel.

The Government are aware of the significant impacts high oil prices are having on consumers, which is why the Chancellor announced a £1.9 billion package in the Budget to ease the burden on motorists.

Green Deal Scheme

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on ensuring that a 30-day payment guarantee applies to all suppliers in the Green Deal process; and if he will make a statement. [67660]

Gregory Barker: The Code of Practice for the Green Deal will require participants to comply with the provisions of the Prompt Payment Code administered by the Institute of Credit Management on behalf of BIS. We are also considering whether the introduction of a cashless supplier payment system might bring even speedier payments, as well as a number of other benefits.

Both of these options will be set out in the consultation on the Green Deal to be launched in the autumn.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason small and medium sized enterprises already assessed to have met the required standards of workmanship for the Green Deal are required to join Green Deal provider pre-qualification schemes. [67770]

Gregory Barker: This is not the case. We have commissioned the British Standards Institute (BSI) to develop a Green Deal Installer Standard with industry by the end of this year. This will bring together the existing standards and develop new ones where necessary. We will then use the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) to provide independent accreditation of the existing certification bodies to ensure they are meeting this standard. Once a certification body has been accredited, those installers certified by that body will automatically be deemed as meeting the new BSI standard and will be able to use the Green Deal quality mark and supply into the market.

Natural Gas: Reserves

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* gas and *(b)* shale gas reserves available in (i) Wales, (ii) each region of England, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland. [67120]

Charles Hendry: UK onshore proven conventional gas reserves, which are not broken down by region, are between 0.6-2.3 billion cubic metres (bcm).

There are no proven shale gas reserves, because exploration for shale gas has only recently commenced in the UK and no commercial production has yet been demonstrated, so it is not currently possible to make an estimate of reserves.

In a study for DECC, the British Geological Survey (BGS) had estimated that there could be potentially around 150 bcm of onshore UK shale gas resource potential (i.e. gas volumes that might be found by future exploration drilling). The BGS study is available on DECC's oil and gas website via the following link:

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/upstream/licensing/shalegas.pdf

DECC does not assess oil and gas reserves for Northern Ireland—this falls under the responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

North Sea Oil

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of oil spillage by private sector drilling companies in the North sea. [66308]

Charles Hendry: The Department requires all offshore oil spills, irrespective of volume, to be reported. In accordance with DECC's investigation policy, all spills are investigated by inspectors from the Department's Offshore Inspectorate, and the relevant enforcement action pursued.

Following the Macondo incident, we have increased the numbers of offshore inspectors and doubled the number of inspections to drilling rigs to ensure compliance with the regulations. In addition, my inspectors are increasingly focusing on prevention to ensure that best practices are shared and applied throughout the industry.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has a contingency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster in the North sea caused by oil spillage; and if he will make a statement. [66309]

Charles Hendry: As a party to the United Nations convention on the law of the sea, the United Kingdom has an obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. The national contingency plan for marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations (NCP) is one of the measures the UK has taken to meet this obligation and the Department for Transport's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is the custodian of this plan. The NCP's purpose is to ensure there is a timely and measured response to an oil pollution incident.

The operators of offshore installations bear the primary responsibility for ensuring that they do not pollute the sea. However, offshore installations may face problems that exceed the response capabilities that they can reasonably maintain. Therefore, the MCA may need to use national assets in the response to a marine pollution incident. The NCP sets out the circumstances in which MCA deploys the UK's national assets to respond to a marine pollution incident to protect the overriding public interest. It also describes how MCA manages these resources.

As detailed above, operators of an offshore installation or oil handling facility are primarily responsible for ensuring that they do not pollute the sea. All such operators must have an oil pollution emergency plan in place. These plans set out the arrangements for responding to incidents with the potential to cause marine pollution by oil. The plans, which are site specific, are reviewed by DECC, MCA and relevant environmental consultees before approval by DECC. The NCP supports and underpins an operator's individual oil pollution emergency plan.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effects of oil spillages by private sector drilling companies in the North sea on potential for oil exploration in the Arctic; and if he will make a statement. [66310]

Charles Hendry: The UK has no regulatory jurisdiction in any part of Arctic waters. Decisions on licensing and exploration activities in Arctic waters are the responsibility of the relevant governments.

That is not to say that the UK has no interest in what happens within the Arctic Circle. We are observers in the Arctic Council which has recently set up a taskforce to look at a binding agreement on oil pollution preparedness and response and we have indicated a willingness to contribute to the work of that group.

Renewable Energy

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the contribution of *(a)* wind, *(b)* hydro-electric and *(c)* nuclear power to overall energy supply. [66691]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the provisional percentage contribution of wind, hydro-electric and nuclear power to overall primary energy supply, as well as electricity generation, in 2010. Final figures for 2010 will be published on 28 July 2011.

	Percentage of primary energy supply	*Percentage of electricity generation*
Wind	0.4	2.7
Nuclear	6.1	16.3
Hydro-electric	0.1	0.9

Data from tables ET 1.3 and ET 5.1, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/total/total.aspx

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether energy providers may limit the amount of electricity households may sell back to the National Grid. [67116]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme places obligations on electricity suppliers to make payments to households and others for every kilowatt hour of electricity generated by eligible small scale low carbon energy sources (the generation tariff), and to purchase energy exported to the wider energy market (the export tariff).

For smaller installations with a capacity of 30 kilowatts or less, such as those that might be installed on a domestic property, the FITs scheme provides for the proportion of electricity exported in any given period to be estimated at a level determined by the Secretary of State. With the exception of micro-hydro installations, this is currently set as 50% of the total electricity generated. This deeming of exports allows for the level of payment for exported energy to be determined without the requirement of additional metering. These arrangements do not apply if an export meter already exists or is provided at the generator's expense.

The first comprehensive review of the FITs scheme is currently under way and provides an opportunity to consider the approach to metering in relation to payment of the FITs export tariff, including the approach to deeming. The Government recently concluded a call for evidence on the review's scope and we are intending to consult on more detailed proposals later in the year.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on the future level of payments from feed-in tariffs. [67278]

Gregory Barker: On 7 February 2011, the Secretary of State announced the start of the first comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs (FITs). This review is now underway and is considering all aspects of the FITs scheme, including tariff levels. We recently concluded a call for evidence on the review's scope and are intending to consult on more detailed proposals later in the summer. As part of the review process, Ministers and officials have had regular discussions with a range of interested parties.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67148]

Gregory Barker: Officials in the Department of Energy and Climate Change have a range of meetings with other Government Departments in the normal course of their work, including with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Solar Power

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to assist *(a)* community projects and *(b)* small businesses with the cost of solar photovoltaic installations. [67657]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme provides support to non-energy professionals, including communities and small businesses, to incentivise the uptake of small-scale, low carbon electricity generation, such as solar photovoltaics (PV).

As part of the Microgeneration Strategy, DECC promised advice by September 2011 for communities on buying groups. This will enable communities to get better value for money on a range of energy products including solar PV. This information will be published on Community Energy Online, a web portal developed by DECC for disseminating information to communities about renewable energy.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to simplify comparisons between the charges of utility companies for *(a)* product and *(b)* installation costs. [66395]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply. As part of its recent review into the effectiveness of the retail market, Ofgem proposes to clarify and simplify tariffs to help consumers find the best deal for them. Details of the review findings and proposals can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

Network operators are required to publish their charges and terms and conditions for connection on their website. Details can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Consumers/ncamm/Documents1/Howdoigetconnectedtoanelectricitysupply.pdf

Wind Power

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure sufficient stability in the market to facilitate private sector investment in offshore wind. [65829]

Charles Hendry: On 12 July the Department published its White Paper on electricity market reform, setting out an enduring framework for future investment in low carbon generation including offshore wind. Feed-in tariffs with Contracts for Difference will provide the necessary support and stable revenues to incentivise investment in low carbon electricity generation at least cost to the consumer.

We have also set out robust transitional arrangements for renewables so as to maintain stable conditions for renewables investments and to maintain industry confidence while the new market arrangements are implemented. These reforms, alongside the Renewables Roadmap (also published on 12 of July), fully demonstrate our continued commitment to renewable electricity generation.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to invest in skills and technology in offshore wind energy. [65831]

Charles Hendry: The information requested is as follows:

Technology

Under the DECC administered Environmental Transformation Fund Offshore Wind Demonstration scheme, £27,806,984 of capital grant support was awarded under three separate calls during 2009 and 2010 to 13 companies for 16 offshore wind technology development projects. This scheme was specifically aimed at bringing forward the demonstration of new components or technology to support the earlier deployment of large-scale multi-megawatt wind turbines.

The Carbon Trust, which receives funding from DECC, has so far provided £3.7 million in funding for offshore wind technology innovation through the Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA), a collaborative research and development programme with eight energy companies which aims to reduce the cost of energy from offshore wind by 10% by 2020. DECC has committed in the region of £4.0 million to OWA in FY11-12; the eight industry partners have invested £5.9 million to date in OWA.

On 12 July 2011, the Government and devolved Administrations published the Renewable Energy Roadmap. The roadmap sets out a comprehensive programme of targeted, practical actions to tackle the barriers to renewables deployment, enabling the level of renewable energy consumed in the UK to grow in line with our ambitions for 2020 and beyond.

As announced in the roadmap, we are determined to drive down the costs of offshore wind and are establishing an industry taskforce to set out a path and action plan to reduce the costs of offshore wind, from development, construction and operations to £100/MWh by 2020. This will be supported by up to £30 million over the next four years for offshore wind innovation which, subject to satisfactory value for money assessments, will be used to fund schemes to drive cost reductions in components and technologies for offshore wind systems.

Skills

We are working with Sector Skills Councils and other partners to improve information about and strengthen the response to the wide range of skills needed to maximise the potential of the green economy, including those for offshore wind energy.

Wind Power: Crown Estate Commissioners

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value is of energy produced from offshore wind farms on the Crown Estate; and what the expected income from offshore wind farms on the Crown Estate is for the next 10 years. [65407]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate is available for the current value of the energy generated in offshore wind farms on Crown Estate property.

Estimates of future revenue are very uncertain because of a number of factors which cannot readily be forecast. Using DECC assumptions of July 2009, the Crown Estate's illustrative projections are that by 2020 its rental income from all renewable offshore activity could lie in the wide range £60 million to £200 million. The eventual amounts will be payable to the Exchequer, net of Crown Estate costs. No more recent assessments are available.

Wind Power: Nature Conservation

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the impact of wind farm developments on *(a)* birds and *(b)* other wildlife. [66279]

Charles Hendry: Each wind farm developer is required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of its planning consent application. This covers issues such as impacts on birds and wildlife and, for offshore wind, fish and marine mammals.

For offshore wind, DECC undertakes a rolling programme of Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and has an ongoing programme of research to back up the conclusions. These include projects to assess the impact of wind farm developments on birds and wildlife. DECC consulted on the latest SEA Environmental Report[1] earlier this year. This concluded that at a strategic level, there were no overriding environmental considerations to prevent the achievement of up to 33GW of offshore wind in the Renewable Energy Zone and English and Welsh territorial waters. A post-consultation report is due to be published shortly.

[1] http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=39&documentID=5

TRANSPORT

A537: Closures

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the A537 Cat and Fiddle Road between Buxton and Macclesfield has been closed in each of the last five years. [62420]

Norman Baker: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. The A53, A54 and A537 roads are the responsibility of Cheshire East council and Derbyshire county council as the relevant highway authorities. The closure of the roads and the collation of any statistics relating to those road closures is a matter for them.

Air Traffic Control: Swanwick

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the monetary value in real terms was of the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* final cost to the public purse of the air traffic control centre at Swanwick; and what additional costs, in real terms, have been incurred since its completion. [65639]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Gentleman to page 11 of the National Audit Office's 2002 report "The Public Private Partnership for National Air Traffic Services Ltd", published on 24 July 2002. This report was made available in the Library of the House when it was published. This is also available online at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0102/the_ppp_national_air_traffic.aspx

Air Travel Trust Fund

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of sanctions which can be applied to holders of air transport organisers' licences which cease to trade having breached the terms of the relevant licence. [65643]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) can prosecute businesses for certain breaches of The Civil Aviation (Air Travel Organisers' Licensing) Regulations 1995, as amended, including contravening the terms of an ATOL licence. Depending on the offence, on conviction this can lead to either (i) a fine of up to £3,000 or (ii) a fine of up to £5,000 or two years imprisonment, or both.

The CAA can also withdraw or refuse to grant or renew an ATOL licence if it is not satisfied that a business is fit to hold one or if it is not satisfied with the financial resources the business has available.

The consultation on ATOL reform published on 23 June 2011 seeks views on potential changes to the offences and sanctions for breach of the regulations.

Aviation: Night flying

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 87-88WS, on airport co-ordination (London Olympics), what estimate he has made of the potential change in the number of night flights at Heathrow between 21 July and 15 August 2012. [65890]

Mrs Villiers: It is not currently anticipated that there will be any change in the existing night movements limits for Heathrow airport during the summer 2012 season.

Aviation: Biofuels

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will assess the potential effects on *(a)* air transport and *(b)* airport capacity of the commercial development and use of aircraft biofuels and biofuel jet fuel blends; and if he will make a statement; [64102]

(2) whether his Department was represented at the Paris Air Show; what assessment he made of the biofuel and biofuel jet fuel blend aircraft at the show; and if he will make a statement. [64104]

Mrs Villiers: The Government believe that sustainable biofuels have a role to play in reducing CO_2 emissions from transport, particularly in sectors, such as aviation, where there are limited alternatives to fossil fuel. The Department is working with our European partners, the wider international community and industry to explore how to bring about a significant increase in the use of sustainable biofuels in aviation, but was not directly represented at the recent Paris Air Show.

As part of our development of a sustainable policy framework for UK aviation, the Department for Transport published a scoping document on 30 March 2011 that frames the debate on the future direction of aviation policy and asks a series of questions, including on use of biofuels in aviation. The responses to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Aviation: Primates

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many primates were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured while transiting (i) through UK airports and (ii) on UK registered airline carriers in the latest period for which figures are available. [66276]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold statistics on the transport of primates through UK airports or on UK-registered airline carriers.

Aviation: Security

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* the European Commission on the trialling of the searching of religious headgear at UK airports. [65843]

Mrs Villiers: I have not had any direct discussions with EU counterparts and the European Commission on the trialling of the searching of religious headgear.

However, I have written to EU counterparts and the European Commission setting out the cultural sensitivities of the screening of religious headgear and outlining the UK approach.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from representatives of the Sikh community on the screening of religious headgear at airports. [65844]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received a number of representations from individuals and Sikh community representatives. Several meetings with officials have taken place, which have resulted in the current ongoing trial of alternative screening arrangements.

I have met various colleagues and discussed this with them. The issue has also been the subject of a Westminster Hall debate. Most recently, I met with Sikh community representatives on this issue on 12 July.

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with airport operators on increasing the speed of security checks of passengers. [67311]

Mrs Villiers: Officials from the Department meet regularly with airport operators to discuss various issues, including the screening processes for passengers.

The safety and security of the travelling public remains paramount in the design and implementation of airport security checks. We recently published proposals to improve the way aviation security in the UK is regulated, to encourage operators to deliver security in more passenger-friendly ways.

Barnt Green to Bromsgrove Railway Line: Electrification

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce a decision on the proposed electrification of the Barnt Green to Bromsgrove line. [67751]

Mr Philip Hammond: Electrification between Barnt Green and Bromsgrove was included in the overall programme of rail investment I confirmed in my statement to Parliament on 25 November 2010. The package of works will be complimented by a larger and better equipped replacement station for the growing number of passengers in the area.

Bombardier: Derby

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he took into account the effects on Bombardier's future in Derby when deciding where to place the contract for trains; [64633]

(2) whether he took into account the effects on employees of Bombardier in Derby of his decision to place the contract for trains with Siemens; and whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of managing these effects. [64634]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) today (UIN 63731).

Bus Services

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of changes in the level of bus services funded by his Department in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [61647]

Norman Baker: The latest information on bus statistics in Great Britain can be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/bus/index.html

The charts found at the following addresses may be of particular interest:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/worksheets/bus0103.xls

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/worksheets/bus0109.xls

Bus Services: Concessions

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that bus passes issued to senior citizens in *(a)* England are valid for travel in Wales and *(b)* Wales are valid for travel in England. [65168]

Norman Baker: There are no immediate plans to introduce mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes across the UK. Concessionary travel is a devolved policy area so the arrangements differ between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains a power to allow, through future regulations, for mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. Regular discussions have taken place at official level with the devolved Administrations. However, various technical and resource issues would need to be resolved before mutual recognition could be pursued. Individual local authorities on the England-Wales border are free to introduce arrangements between them to enable concessionary travel across the border, and some indeed have.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners in *(a)* York Central constituency, *(b)* the city of York, *(c)* north Yorkshire and *(d)* England (i) held a concessionary bus pass and (ii) were eligible for concessionary bus travel (A) in May 2010 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [65617]

Norman Baker: The Department is not responsible for issuing bus passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes are held by concessionaires in individual local authority areas. As bus passes are issued by local authorities, the Department has no information regarding bus passes held in parliamentary constituencies.

Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics show that in mid-2010, the latest period for which figures are available, there were 44,900 older people resident in the city of York, 166,700 in north Yorkshire and 11,746,500 resident in England who were of the eligible age for a bus pass. The Department does not hold information as to whether all those eligible people have taken up their entitlement to the bus travel concession. However, the national travel survey 2009 estimated that 76% of eligible older people took up their entitlement to bus passes.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62717]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its agencies has awarded two contracts to Capita since May 2010. In addition, we have awarded a further two framework contracts which have a nil commitment value on expenditure. We have awarded 11 purchase orders from these and other pre-existing framework contracts. The individual monetary values of these contracts and purchase orders are shown in the following table.

Contract/type/purchase order	*Individual monetary value (£)*
Contract	175,000
Contract	59,769
Framework Contract	0
Framework Contract	0
Purchase Order	150,000
Purchase Order	104,702
Purchase Order	19,080
Purchase Order	18,736
Purchase Order	32,244
Purchase Order	722,555
Purchase Order	97,543
Purchase Order	109,906
Purchase Order	240,917
Purchase Order	284,758
Purchase Order	18,021

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been contracted to construct rolling stock operating on the High Speed 1 rail link. [62193]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* There are currently two operators using High Speed 1.

Eurostar International, a stand alone business, currently operates 28 trainsets first introduced in 1994 and built by GEC-Alstom. Eurostar announced in October 2010 that it would be additionally purchasing 10 new trainsets from Siemens.

London and South Eastern Railway Company operates 29 x 6 car units, manufactured by Hitachi, on the HS1 domestic route, which were introduced in June 2009. In addition, Deutsche Bahn is looking at the commercial proposition to operate services on HS1 using Siemens manufactured trainsets.

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 257W, on compensation, what steps he is taking to reduce the need for his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies to compensate the public for errors for which they were responsible. [63938]

Norman Baker: A number of approaches are being employed to reduce the incidence of official errors within the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. Preventative measures, reviews and lessons learned differ across the Department, depending on the type of business transacted. They include the following measures:

Prevention

Customers are encouraged to obtain services online, reducing the risk that they do not receive the service they require.

Services are designed so as to minimise the scope for errors, by building transparency into the process.

Established quality management systems principles are used.

A risk-based approach to prevention is employed, appropriate to the level of errors compared with turnover.

Review and lessons learned

Complaints handling functions are being centralised in order to increase understanding of customer complaints and compensation requests, in order to identify areas that require process improvements.

Reviews are undertaken to ensure that lessons are learned and, where necessary, amended processes are communicated and shared to avoid a recurrence and the likelihood of compensation claims.

Best practice and lessons learned are widely disseminated, both locally and also between the agencies.

For unusual cases, legal or other advice is sought as appropriate.

Concessions: Pensioners

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* disabled people in (i) York, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England received free bus travel and concessions in each year since 2008; and what plans he has for the future of free bus travel in England for older and disabled people. [66001]

Norman Baker: The Department does not maintain records of how many people received the free bus travel concession in individual local authority areas or the breakdown by older people and disabled people. A survey is in progress to collect information at local authority level.

Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics show the numbers of people of eligible age for a bus pass, from mid-year 2008 to mid-year 2010

Thousand

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
City of York	43.4	44.1	44.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,149.4	1,169.8	1,189.0
England	11,324.2	11,541.1	11,746.5

The Department does not hold information on whether all those eligible people have taken up their entitlement to the bus travel concession. However, the national travel survey 2009 estimates that, nationally, 76% of eligible older people took up their entitlement to bus passes.

The right to free bus travel for both older and disabled people is enshrined in primary legislation and, in last year's spending review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed the Government's commitment to protect the free bus travel concession.

Congestion Review: Consultants

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department engaged external consultants as part of the review into measures to reduce the congestion caused by incidents; and what each such consultant was paid; [65031]

(2) what the cost was of the review into measures to reduce the congestion caused by incidents. [65038]

Mike Penning: The review into congestion caused by motorway incidents was produced in-house by the Department with support from Highways Agency colleagues, and the published report was produced using the Department's in-house reprographics unit. Consequently, no consultancy or external publication expenditure was incurred.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the development of the new strategic framework for road safety; whether any external consultants were used as part of this review; and how much was paid to each such consultant. [65033]

Mike Penning: The Department did not use any consultants in the development of the new strategic framework for road safety. The Transport Research Laboratory provided updated forecasts and analysis at a cost of £14,091.52. There was a consultation exercise with stakeholders in the form of a series of workshops that were hosted and run, on behalf of the Department, by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety. The total cost of these was £6,360.32, which included the production of several think pieces and summaries following the events. 100 hard copies of the document were printed in-house. Due to the nature of the contract it is not possible to quantify the cost of an individual print job, but this was the least cost approach. The rest of the development work was undertaken by permanent members of staff as part of their general road safety work. It is not possible to quantify this cost, but as an illustration there was approximately one full-time member of staff developing the document for nine months, with input from many others throughout the process.

Cycling

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to promote cycling to work; and if he will make a statement. [65733]

Norman Baker: The Department has traditionally promoted both the Cycle to Work Scheme and the Cycle to Work Guarantee to employers, employees and other Government Departments through a number of department-led promotions and projects. The Department also funds the national business travel network (NBTN). NBTN launched a DfT part-funded 'ways2work' tool kit in November 2010 to help people and businesses work more efficiently. The tool kit includes a section on encouraging cycling to work.

Most recently the Cycle to Work Scheme has been promoted through guidance to the members of the physical activity network, which is part of the Department for Health-led public health responsibility deal. I have also provided a foreword in support of the Cycle to Work Alliance's behavioural impact analysis.

Finally, the results of bids for tranche 1 of the local sustainable transport fund were released on 5 July 2011, many of which included elements relating to cycling to work.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Tolls

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the number plate recognition system proposed for the Dartford river crossing is the same as the system used for the London congestion charge; and whether the system will be able to identify vehicles with non-UK number plates. [67600]

Mike Penning: The proposals for an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system are currently being considered as part of the preliminary design stage for a free-flow charging scheme at Dartford Crossing. It is expected that such a system will be similar to that used for the London congestion charging scheme, and should be capable of capturing the vehicle registration mark of most foreign vehicles.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many invoices received by his Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62489]

Norman Baker: The majority of the contractual obligations negotiated with suppliers within DFT is to pay valid invoices received from suppliers within 30 days of receipt.

The following table reflects the invoices received that were paid on time (within 30 days) and those that were paid late in each month since May 2010 for the DFT family (composed of the central Department and its seven executive agencies). The table includes the monetary value of invoices paid on time and paid late (over 30 days) for the same period.

DFT family

	Number of invoices			Monetary value (£)	
	Paid in month	Paid on time	Not paid on time	Paid on time	Paid late
2010					
May	18,294	18,198	96	335,590,702	4,808,015
June	19,517	19,417	100	387,768,206	9,923,662
July	18,989	18,891	97	327,029,601	9,402,201
August	15,693	15,617	78	345,047,722	3,810,952
September	17,075	17,000	72	305,054,805	9,855,466
October	17,022	16,926	98	359,648,551	4,302,872
November	16,703	16,660	43	314,083,194	373,153
December	15,280	15,249	31	324,952,106	12,021,550
2011					
January	15,116	15,071	45	264,949,743	2,109,590
February	15,669	15,631	38	264,464,874	1,886,523
March	19,540	19,496	44	425,397,695	3,423,825
April	15,092	15,059	33	359,988,396	1,551,364
May	14,678	14,606	72	293,318,140	4,426,167
Total	218,668	217,821	847	4,307,293,735	67,895,340

As the majority of contractual obligations are to pay within 30 days, payments not made in five days are not late payments. The Department is committed to paying within five days where appropriate.

The following table reflects the invoices received that were paid within five days and those that were not paid within five days for the DFT family. It also includes the monetary value of invoices paid within five days and those paid outside of five days.

DFT family

	Number of invoices			Monetary value (£)	
	Paid in month	Paid in five days	Not paid in five days	Paid in five days	Not paid in five days
2010					
May	18,294	14,284	4,010	241,643,071	99,175,486
June	19,517	15,140	4,329	233,148,106	164,903,807
July	18,989	15,957	3,050	248,809,491	86,996,013
August	15,693	14,209	1,518	298,361,910	52,091,691
September	17,075	15,825	1,250	281,772,641	32,280,964
October	17,022	15,863	1,176	337,152,736	26,798,687
November	16,703	15,748	955	282,743,742	31,712,605
December	15,280	14,064	1,216	295,036,104	41,937,552
2011					
January	15,116	14,039	1,077	209,461,018	57,598,315
February	15,669	14,860	809	209,586,170	56,765,227
March	19,540	18,223	1,317	303,500,730	125,320,790
April	15,092	13,968	1,124	303,941,253	57,598,507
May	14,678	13,757	921	281,314,359	16,429,948
Total	218,668	195,937	22,752	3,526,471,331	849,609,592

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63247]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is committed to reducing the carbon emissions from its estate and low-carbon technologies will form part of our overall sustainability strategy.

The Department already has four Vehicle Operator and Services Agency Test Station sites that utilise either Wind Turbine or Solar Photovoltaic technologies.

While these technologies are not practical for some parts of our estate, we have a number of feasibility studies ongoing at present. These include:

Biomass boiler, photovoltaic and solar thermal arrays at the Driving Standards Agency training and development centre in Bedford. The target for installation to start is 2012;

Installation of low-carbon technologies in at least one of the Highways Agency main offices with a target for installation to be take place by March 2012;

Ground and air source heat pumps and photovoltaic technologies at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency headquarters in Swansea. The aim is for these to be progressed over the next two years, subject to feasibility; and

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is in the infancy of exploring the potential for generating low-carbon energy from its estate but does not yet have any definitive time scales in place.

These are the current areas under consideration, but this scope is likely to grow as the technologies mature and our estate rationalisation programme completes.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57126]

Norman Baker: Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one-day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65339]

Mike Penning: Twelve statutory instruments that impose costs on businesses, charities or the voluntary or public sectors were made by the Department for Transport in the six months prior to 1 September 2010. Eleven were made by the Department under the last Administration. Of the 12, six imposed an overall net cost. The other six were either neutral in terms of the overall costs imposed or had an overall net benefit.

Although it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to break down the costs as between business, charities and the voluntary or public sectors for each of the instruments, I set out as follows a table of the 12 instruments giving general comments on whom, on the basis of the impact assessments prepared for the instruments, the costs were expected to fall.

The Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010 are not yet in force and the underlying policy is subject to review. Consequently, the costs in the table may not become a reality.

Title	*Number*	*Net cost (£ million)*	*Net benefit (£ million)*	*Origin (wholly or mainly)*	*Comment*
Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 629	0	0	Domestic	—
Train Driving Licences and Certificates Regulations 2010	2010 No. 724	17.1	—	EU	Costs will mainly fall on the train operating companies
Merchant Shipping(Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 737	0.148	—	International	Costs to seafarers
Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 770	—	5.848	Domestic	Costs to licensed aerodromes and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Benefits to training organisations and CAA
M20 Motorway (Junctions 4 to 7) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 775	—	7.3	Domestic	Costs mainly to government, benefit to motorists
Vehicle Drivers (Certificates of Professional Competence) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 865	0.121	—	Domestic	Costs to drivers
Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 895	23	—	EU	Most costs fall on passenger ship operators but some to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Motor Vehicles (Off Road Events) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 1003	0	0	Domestic	—
Motor Vehicle(Competitions and Trials) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 1005	0	0	Domestic	—
Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 1203	0.009	—	Domestic	Cost to driver trainers
Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 1228	83.3	—	Domestic	Costs to ports, harbours and shipping operators.
Tonnage Tax (Training Requirement) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 2158	0	0	Domestic	—

In total, the 12 instruments have a net cost of £123.678 million and a net benefit of £13.148 million, giving an overall net cost of £110.15 million.

No statutory instruments which imposed a cost on business were revoked by an instrument made in the six months prior to 1 September 2010.

Local and temporary instruments have not been considered for the purposes of answering this question as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Driving Offences

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of road rage there have been in each of the last three years; and what steps he is taking to prevent these incidents. [66636]

Mike Penning: The term 'road rage' is used to cover a wide range of aggressive behaviour when one road user assaults another or threatens another due to their behaviour on the road. Unless a serious incident takes place the police do not become involved, and therefore no record of the number of incidents exists.

Contributions towards 'road rage' incidents include motoring offences for which the road user may be prosecuted under road traffic offences. The Government's strategic framework for road safety includes a proposal to introduce a fixed penalty notice for careless driving, expected to start in 2012. This would allow more people to be offered rehabilitative education to combat behaviour such as 'tail-gating', which itself is at times unofficially described as 'road rage'.

East Coast Railway Line: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials from Directly Operated Railways Ltd and *(b)* ministerial colleagues and officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the award of the east coast main line customer contact centre contract to Intelenet and Atos Origin. [58779]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* Ministers from the Department for Transport have met with *(a)* representatives of Directly Operated Railways Ltd and *(b)* ministerial colleagues and officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, but not specifically to discuss this matter.

Officials from the Department meet regularly with train operating companies and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss a wide range of issues.

First TransPennine Express: Contracts

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been shortlisted to provide additional rolling stock for the TransPennine Express passenger rail franchise; and when he expects to announce the award of the contract. [65238]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is not procuring these trains and therefore is unable to disclose this information. The train operator is leading on this procurement.

The Department is in negotiation with TransPennine Express regarding the commercial terms for operating such trains. Should commercial agreement be reached between the parties, an announcement will be made in due course.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58670]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its agencies holds 10 contracts with G4S. The purpose and monetary value for each contract are shown in the following table.

Agency name	*Purpose*	*Value (£ per annum)*
Driving Standards Agency	Collection of cheques and postal orders (Newcastle office)	2,000
Driving Standards Agency	Collection of cash (Nottingham office)	200
Driving Standards Agency	Security at Driving Standards Agency properties	22,500
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	Customer Service Accreditation	6,300
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	Security Carrier Service	250,000
Highways Agency	Recruitment.framework for temporary RCC (Regional Control Centres) Operators 2009	200,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Provision of car barrier and swipe card system	6,515
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Provision of CCTV cameras and swipe card system	3,446
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Provision of CCTV cameras and swipe card system	3,597
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Provision of swipe card system	626

High Speed 2

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has commissioned on connections between the principal High Speed 2 stations and outlying areas. [65882]

Mr Philip Hammond: Although no specific research into connections between High Speed 2 (HS2) stations and outlying areas has been commissioned, a key factor in identifying station locations for HS2 has been the availability of local and regional transport links. HS2

Ltd's modelling takes account of the impact of the accessibility of new stations on the proposed HS2 line, as well as the impact of passengers on the classic network. Details of the modelling and impacts on the wider transport network are available in the Economic Case for HS2:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents

Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, the Department would work with local partners to ensure HS2 is effectively connected into local transport services.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of High Speed 2 on *(a)* the number of engineering jobs in the north-west during the construction of the line and *(b)* the economy of the north-west (i) during and (ii) after construction. [62370]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd estimates that around 9,000 jobs would be created to construct the new London-west midlands route, with a further 1,500 permanent jobs created in operations and maintenance. These figures would significantly rise under the Government's proposed 'Y' shaped high-speed rail network, which includes links to the north-east and north-west, and has the potential to generate benefits worth £44 billion over the appraisal period.

Although construction phase benefits have not been broken down to a regional level, new high-speed rail lines could provide business opportunities for firms throughout the UK's rail industry supply chain, including engineering firms. Once the London-west-midlands line is operational, HS2 Ltd forecast that based, on journeys starting in the north-west region, the north-west could experience 23% of the £22 billion-worth of potential benefits from the first phase of a new high-speed line.

High Speed 2: Fares

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with railway operators on his proposed fare structure for High Speed 2. [64821]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: I have had no discussions with railway operators about any proposed fare structure for HS2.

The exact level and structure of fares on HS2 (London to west-midlands) would be determined closer to the time of opening of the scheme and would depend on a wide range of factors. The structure of regulation in the rail industry, the structure of franchises and the impact of competition from other rail operators (and indeed from air operators) could all affect the fares structures that might eventually be put in place on high-speed trains. For the purposes of the economic case, we have assumed that the level of fares on HS2 would be broadly similar to that currently in place on the west coast main line.

High Speed 2: Freight

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the provision of a dedicated freight railway line for the routes to be served by High Speed 2. [64059]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 5 July 2011]*: None. While HS2 would be capable of carrying freight, it is not planned to be used in this way. However, by releasing capacity on existing lines, HS2 would enable additional freight services on these lines.

High Speed 2: Income

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential revenue to be generated from leasing High Speed 2 to private companies. [64774]

Mr Philip Hammond: No such estimate has been made at this stage.

Subject to the outcome of the current consultation, as part of their further development of their high-speed rail strategy, the Government would consider the appropriate long-term ownership and operating model for High Speed 2. This would be expected to include an assessment of the potential for generating revenue through granting a concession of the High Speed 2 line to a private sector concessionaire.

A 30-year operating concession for the HS1 line was let earlier this year for £2.1 billion—more than a third of the total construction cost of the project.

High Speed 1

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the net financial value to the Exchequer has been of *(a)* the let of a concession to manage the High Speed 1 infrastructure and *(b)* franchise payments for High Speed 1 since 2009. [63078]

Mrs Villiers: A 30-year concession for HS1 was sold in 2010 for £2.1 billion to High Speed 1 Limited. There are no franchise payments associated with the HS1 concession.

High Speed 1 Limited's income comes from the track and station access payments it receives from Southeastern and Eurostar International Limited for using the railway, together with car parking, retail and advertising income at stations.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58682]

Norman Baker: Out of the Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) holds one contract with IBM. The core purpose of this contract is to run and maintain the DVLA information technology infrastructure. The contract also includes the design, development and support of new and enhanced systems and services to DVLA specification. The monetary value of the contract is £150 million per annum and the contract runs until September 2015.

Liverpool Cruise Terminal

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* representatives of Peel Holdings and *(b)* Associated British Ports on the future operational role of the Liverpool cruise terminal; on what date such meetings took place; and if he will make a statement. [66202]

Mike Penning: The Department has held no meetings with Peel Holdings or Associated British Ports specifically on this subject, although the matter has been mentioned in the course of other business with each of them at various times. The Department's consultation, on the proposal to remove its objection to use of the terminal for turnaround operations, closes on 15 September, and we shall welcome responses from both companies.

Motorcycles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development and use of electrically-powered motorcycles. [62378]

Norman Baker: Passenger cars are by some distance the biggest source of emissions from road transport, accounting for almost 60% of total UK domestic CO_2 transport emissions, compared to less than 1% accounted for by motorcycles. As such, the focus of Government support is on cars as that will have the biggest impact on greenhouse gas emissions from road transport. We recognise that electric motorcycles offer environmental benefits compared to conventional motorcycles, and they are already zero rated for VED purposes and exempt from fuel duty. Electric motorbikes are able to access the re-charging infrastructure installed as part of the plugged-in places programme.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcycle driving tests in each engine class were taken *(a)* between April 2008 and March 2009 and *(b)* between April 2009 and March 2010; and how many test sites were in operation in each period. [67729]

Mike Penning: The number of motorcycle driving tests in each engine class taken between *(a)* April 2008 and March 2009 and *(b)* April 2009 and March 2010; and the number of test sites in operation in each period are shown as follows:

	Single Event Test		*Module 1*		*Module 2*	
	Tests taken	*Number of sites*[1]	*Tests taken*	*Number of sites*	*Tests taken*	*Number of sites*
April 2008 to March 2009	A1—442	[2]225	—	—	—	—
	A2—28,153	[2]—	—	—	—	—
	A—78,562	[2]—	—	—	—	—
April 2009 to 26 April 2009	A1—47	[3]173	—	—	—	—
	A2—2,353	[3]—	—	—	—	—
	A—6,144	[3]—	—	—	—	. —
27 April 2009 to March 2010[4]	—	—	A1—380	[5]68	A1—125	[6]114
	—	—	A2—2,541	[5]—	A2—8,760	[6]—
	—	—	A—37,903	[5]—	A—29,032	[6]—

[1] Modular testing was introduced on 27 April 2009.

[4] Number of sites from which tests have been delivered over the period specified.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since the creation of the National Security Council. [67324]

Mr Philip Hammond: I attend the National Security Council when the discussions include transport security matters and the National Security Adviser is present at such meetings. I have not held any separate meetings with the National Security Adviser.

Network Rail

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work his Department has undertaken with Network Rail on improving rail asset information. [64127]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail has an obligation in its network licence to maintain appropriate, accurate and readily accessible information about its railway assets, including their condition, capability and capacity. The network licence is enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation in accordance with its economic enforcement policy, which states that it will concentrate on serious or systemic issues.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on measures to notify *(a)* the Office of Rail Regulation and *(b)* Parliament of compromise agreements paid by Network Rail out of the public purse. [66520]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is a private sector company which, in line with other employers, is subject to relevant employment legislation and directives. Questions on the details of its employment practices are for the company to answer.

North East Interim Regional Transport Board

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status is of the North East Interim Regional Transport Board; and what the composition is of that board. [61552]

Norman Baker: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, to his earlier question on this matter, and have nothing further to add.

Office of Rail Regulation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with the Office of Rail Regulation on *(a)* a review of rail industry change and the consultation process and *(b)* amendments to contracts and the Network Code; [64111]

(2) what consideration his Department and the Office of Rail Regulation have given to issuing a statement on *(a)* partnership working between train operating companies and Network Rail and *(b)* treatment of resulting costs and benefits; [64116]

(3) what work his Department has done on the proposals of the final independent report of the rail value for money study for devolved route infrastructure management by Network Rail infrastructure managers; [64117]

(4) what work his Department has undertaken on the proposals in the final independent report of the rail value for money study for the vertical integration of train operations and infrastructure management in the *(a)* Sussex, *(b)* Kent, *(c)* South Eastern, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Western regions; and if he will make a statement; [64120]

(5) whether his Department has carried out *(a)* a cost-benefit analysis and *(b)* any other work on the proposal of the final independent report of the rail value for money study to allow independent ownership of at least one route infrastructure management by 2014-15; [64121]

(6) what work his Department has carried out with Network Rail on the proposals to create a northern operating route out of the London North Western and London North Eastern routes contained in the final independent report of the rail value for money study; [64122]

(7) whether his Department plans to undertake an assessment of the implications for rail safety of the proposals for Network Rail to devolve safety functions to route infrastructure managers in the final independent report of the rail value for money study; [64123]

(8) what his policy is on the future of the network grant; [64125]

(9) whether he plans to undertake an assessment of the effect on competition between train-operating companies of proposals for 30-year vertically integrated train operations and infrastructure management franchises. [64129]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received Sir Roy McNulty's final report on the value for money of the railway. The Department will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to develop proposals for the reform of the industry. The Government plan to publish our proposals for the future of the rail industry before the end of the year.

Pedestrian Crossings: Carnforth

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with Lancashire county council on placing a pedestrian crossing on Market street in Carnforth. [62328]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has had no discussions with Lancashire county council regarding this pedestrian crossing. The provision of pedestrian crossings is a local matter for the relevant local highway authority.

Rail Value for Money Review

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent in each cost category in providing the independent report of the rail value for money study. [R] [58590]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 June 2011]*: The total forecast cost of the report to 27 May 2011 was £3,240,832. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

	£
Administrative costs	123,875
Consultancy costs[1]	2,063,094.30
Programme and Project Management[2]	1,053,862.40

[1] Including both transport and management consultancy.

[2] Including staff costs.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the final independent report of the rail value for money study; how much was spent on *(a)* staffing costs and *(b)* consultant costs; and how much each consultant was paid. [61233]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer given today to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) (UIN 58590), which sets out the total forecast cost of the rail value for money study.

The forecast staff costs include seven core staff paid for by the Department (at a total cost of £968,638) and two further personnel remunerated by the Office of Rail Regulation (at a total cost of £85,224), a total of £1,053,862. In addition, staff were seconded from the Department and the ORR on an ad hoc basis to provide support to the study.

The total forecast consultancy expenditure is £2,063,094. Consultancy expenditure is set out in the following table:

	£
Adventis	35,212
Aecom Ltd	111,085
Amtec Consulting	98,050
Atkins Ltd	440,363

	£
Atos Origin	21,500
Booz and Co Ltd	61,244
Civity	168,400
Colin Buchanan	44,500
Detica	85,428
DTZ Debenham TIE	45,195
Ernst and Young	21,475
First Class Partnership Ltd	5,000
First Economics	21,700
Grant Thornton	35,805
Imperial College London	18,000
Investors in Excellence	26,955
Jacobs Consultancy	37,208
LEK Consulting	273,290
Ove Arup and Partners	72,644
Oxera Consulting Ltd	115,072
Peter Thompson	24,000
Steer Davis Gleave	300,968

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the involvement of train operating companies in the High Level Output Specification process. [64124]

Mrs Villiers: Our policy is one of active involvement. Train operating companies are working with Network Rail to develop an initial industry plan, expected to be published in September 2011, which will inform the Government of the areas the industry seeks the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) to cover. The companies participate in the Government's cross-industry joint planning group, which has been providing guidance on the format the output might take since 2009.

Railways: Contracts

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with which train suppliers and for how many vehicles his Department has *(a)* reached contract signature and *(b)* announced preferred bidder status since 2004. [65193]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Department has reached preferred bidder status with Agility trains for around 600 IEP vehicles and with a consortium of Siemens plc and Cross London Trains (XLT) for around 1,200 Thameslink vehicles. Neither of these have reached contract signature yet.

The Department facilitated Virgin Rail Projects Ltd and Angel Trains Ltd entering into a contract with Alstom for 106 additional Pendolino carriages in 2008.

Railways: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* extending his plans for electrification of the rail network and ordering more full electric trains and *(b)* retaining his existing rail electrification proposals operated by hybrid trains over the next 10 years. [58765]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have committed to delivering an investment of over £5.5 billion in the electrification of the network and to a new fleet of intercity express trains and made the estimate over a 30-year period.

The operation of bi-mode trains is cheaper for those less busy sections of the network where electrification cannot be justified and allows through long distance service to London to continue.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on railways: finance, what progress his Department has made in its engagement with the rail industry on an agreement on the effects on levels of Government *(a)* subsidy to and *(b)* premia received from train operating companies of the increase in rail fares by retail prices index plus three per cent. for three years from January 2012. [64146]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* Progress is being made on refining the contractual changes to subsidy and premia that the Department expects to recover from train operating companies for this change in fares regulation.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there will be a public consultation on the findings of the review of rail fares policy announced in the McNulty review; what stage that review has reached; and when he last met representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies to discuss the fares review. [65716]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers regularly discuss a range of issues with ATOC. The most recent meeting specifically to discuss fares reform was on 21 June 2011. We are still considering the scope of the review, including the timetable and process for engagement.

Railways: Fees and Charges

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of amending the penalty fares policy and rules to allow passengers travelling with an advance ticket and travelling on a service other than that specified on that ticket to pay the difference between what they have paid for that ticket and the fare appropriate to the service on which they are travelling. [63965]

Mrs Villiers: The scope of the forthcoming fares review is under consideration.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department paid Steer Davies Gleave for the work carried out as part of the final independent report of the rail value for money study; [64112]

(2) how much his Department paid *(a)* Oxera, *(b)* Arup and *(c)* Frontier Economics for work commissioned by the final independent report of the rail value for money study. [64115]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I have given her today (UIN 61233), which sets out the direct payments to third parties engaged in producing work for the independent report of the rail value for money study.

Railways: Franchises

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on requiring franchise bidders to guarantee a minimum number of trains to stop at each station in a franchise area. [64031]

Mrs Villiers: The policy for each franchise will be considered during the re-letting process, in light of public consultation. The Department is currently consulting on the total quantum of stops outlined in the trains service requirement of the draft invitation to tender (ITT) for the Intercity West Coast franchise. This draft ITT sets out the proposals for that franchise and the consultation can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/rail-passenger-franchise-intercity-west-coast/

The consultation closes on 17 August 2011.

Railways: Lee Valley

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to make an announcement on expenditure on the Lee Valley main line between Coppermill Junction and Broxbourne Junction. [66419]

Mrs Villiers: The rail industry is currently preparing its recommended priorities for the next railway control period (Control Period 5 from 2014-15 to 2018-19). The next high-level output specification, setting out the railway outputs required by the Secretary of State for Transport in Control Period 5 will be published in July 2012. It will then be for the rail industry to determine how the outputs are delivered, subject to oversight by the Office of Rail Regulation.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to install new segregated train tracks from Brimsdown, north of Tottenham Hale station, to south of Coppermill Junction; and if he will make a statement. [66447]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is considering options for new tracks in the Brimsdown and Coppermill Junction areas in its development of the London and south-east route utilisation strategy. The final version of the strategy is expected to be published shortly and will inform the Government's next high-level output specification covering rail investment from 2014.

Railways: Midlands

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been shortlisted to provide additional rolling stock for the London Midland passenger rail franchise; and when he expects to announce the award of the contract. [65237]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement of additional rolling stock for the London Midland passenger rail franchise is combined with a procurement of similar trains by the TransPennine Express franchise. The Department is not procuring these trains and therefore is unable to disclose this information.

The Department is in negotiation with both train operating companies regarding the commercial terms for operating such trains. Should commercial agreement be reached between the parties, an announcement will be made later this year.

Railways: North-west

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from businesses in the north-west on high-speed rail. [62601]

Mr Philip Hammond: Overall, the business community in the north-west has demonstrated significant support for the Government's proposals on high-speed rail, including in representations to the Department.

Railways: Passengers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to Network Rail's northern route utilisation Strategy, what plans his Department has to make provision for projected increases in passenger numbers to Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle up to 2024. [62388]

Mrs Villiers: We announced on 13 April the provision of an extra 2,000 seats for West Yorkshire commuters as part of the 650 extra carriages we have committed to introduce across the network by 2014. Our plans beyond 2014 will be set out in 2012 and will take account of the initial industry plan the rail industry intends to publish later this year.

Railways: Public Finance

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public funding was provided for *(a)* rail transport, *(b)* roads, *(c)* shipping and ports and *(d)* airports in the latest period for which figures are available. [64400]

Norman Baker: The Department's Supply Estimates give details of the amount of public funding made available for 2011-12 and can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/dft_main_supply_estimates_april11.pdf

The Estimate shows the full funding provided for rail transport at Estimate Lines D, E and F. Roads are at Lines A and C; in addition, £806 million of the amount shown for local authorities in Line B is for capital road maintenance.

Line L shows funding for aviation, maritime, security and safety. Within this, the public funding for shipping and ports is £20.2 million, but there is no public funding specifically for airports.

Railways: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to investigate the circumstances in which two trains came close to collision near Burnham on 4 June 2011. [64132]

Mrs Villiers: The role of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) is to conduct investigations into the types of accident or incident that the industry is obliged to notify us about, which are defined in the Schedules to the Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations 2005.

The event on 4 June 2011 at Burnham occurred after the signaller at Slough had authorised a train to pass signal DM20 at danger. During the previous day, there had been signal failures caused by vandalism between Taplow and Burnham and work continued during the morning of the 4th to repair the problems which had led to some signals in the area being held at red.

Operational procedures exist to cover such situations which may arise, for example because the signal itself is defective. When a signaller permits a driver to pass a signal at danger, the driver is instructed to proceed at caution and be prepared to stop short of any obstruction.

On this occasion, the signaller incorrectly instructed the driver to pass the signal at danger. However, the driver correctly applied the rule book procedure and ensured that the train proceeded slowly and was able to stop well short of the train ahead, without the use of emergency braking. Consequently, while the trains where physically in relatively close proximity (circa 100 yards), they were not at risk of collision. Under these circumstances, the event was not notifiable to the RAIB according to the legislation.

However, it had been identified by the RAIB duty co-ordinator, from the daily log provided by Network Rail, as an incident where further information should be obtained. As a result, the RAIB decided that it was appropriate to leave the investigation to the industry, which has a duty to investigate.

Railways: South-west

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to electrify the lines between *(a)* London Paddington and Penzance stations and *(b)* Bristol Temple Meads and Exeter St David's stations. [64061]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2011]*: The Government support a progressive electrification of the railway to support our carbon and cost-reduction goals, where the economic case is sound and as resources allow.

As detailed in the Secretary of State for Transport's statement to the House on 1 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 185, we are committed to electrifying the Great Western main line from London Paddington to Didcot, Newbury, Bristol and Cardiff. We have no current plans to electrify the lines beyond to Penzance and Exeter St David stations.

Railways: Theft

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he has taken to prevent rail cable theft in Wales; [59782]

(2) how many rail cable thefts there were in Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [59794]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs of *(a)* replacing cables and *(b)* disruption to services following cable theft in the latest period for which figures are available. [59795]

Norman Baker: Prevention of rail crimes is a matter for the British Transport police (BTP). Cable theft is a crime which hits the railway particularly hard and causes levels of disruption out of all proportion to the value of the material stolen. That is why the BTP is in the forefront of efforts to tackle the problem, working with Network Rail, the train operators, other police forces, the scrap metal industry and others with an interest. In addition, I recently met with interested parties in the rail industry to discuss this problem.

Methods used to deter and catch the thieves include: a dedicated BTP task force with increased patrols, intelligence-led policing and additional dedicated officers; the use of the Network Rail helicopter, CCTV, forensic marking, trembler alarms and other devices to protect the cable; the introduction of new type of cable that is easier to identify and harder to steal; and fast response teams to get trains on the move as quickly as possible following an incident.

Information relating to the cost of replacement cables and disruption to services is not held by the Department for Transport but by Network Rail. It is not possible to provide the information by area but the national figures for cable theft (May 2011) are detailed as follows:

Financial year	*Number of incidents*[1]	*Delay minutes*[2]	*Compensation cost*[3] *(£)*	*Total cost*[4] *(£)*
2010-11	995	365,265	12,137,220	16,510,663
2009-10	656	321,570	10,931,350	13,961,998
2008-09	742	283,167	7,858,516	12,264,682
Total	2,393	970,002	30, 927, 086	42,737,343

[1] Number of incidents which caused delay to the operational network. It does not include thefts from depots, engineering sites or redundant cable.

[2] Delay minutes show the inconvenience experienced by the passenger and vary with each incident. If the theft is on a busy mainline then they rack up much quicker than on quieter suburban lines. Delay per incident is decreasing as Network Rail teams become more efficient at locating and fixing the problem.

[3] Compensation costs (known as schedule 8 costs) are paid to train and freight operators for the disruption caused by the delay. This is a substantial part of the cost to the industry of cable theft but does not include the cost of staff time to repair and replace the cable, replacement cable itself and the cost of mitigation measures such as security patrols and investment in new technology. The amount of compensation paid depends on the type of services delayed.

[4] Total cost comprises schedule 8 (compensation to train operators), as well as the average cost of replacement cable; average maintenance cost of attending to the fault and average opportunity cost of diverting this labour from elsewhere. This figure is only available as a national figure as it is an estimation based on averages.

	Hours delay
2010-11	6,088
2009-10	5,360
2008-09	4,719

Railways: Tickets

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the rail value for money study, whether he plans to establish a pilot scheme in conjunction with a train operating company to trial smart card season tickets. [67755]

Mrs Villiers: There are currently four train operating companies (South West Trains, London Midland, East Midlands Trains and Southern) that have franchise commitments to implement ITSO smart ticketing schemes including the use of smart card season tickets.

Railways: Vandalism

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of vandalism of railway tracks in each *(a)* county and *(b)* region were reported in each of the last five years; what the average annual cost of repairing vandalism to the rail network has been in the last five years; and what initiatives are being pursued to prevent vandalism of the rail network. [67789]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police and Network Rail, which hold the primary responsibility for combating vandalism on the national rail network.

The hon. Gentleman may wish to direct his question to the British Transport Police and Network Rail at the following addresses for a response to his questions:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN.
E-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

Road Signs and Markings

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* visibility and *(b)* distance criteria are for the installation of solid double white lines on class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C roads in England. [62512]

Norman Baker: Visibility and distance criteria for solid double white lines are not regulated. The Traffic Signs Manual, chapter 5, section 5, available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tss/tsmanual/trafficsignsmanualchapter5.pdf

gives advice on the appropriate procedure for determining whether they should be installed. The selection criteria are independent of road class.

ScotRail: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the delivery into service of the Class 380 electric multiple-unit trains and depot procured from Siemens for the Scotrail passenger rail franchise. [65243]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, has made no assessment of the Class 380 electric multiple trains and depots procured for the Scotrail passenger franchise as this is a devolved matter for Transport Scotland.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58651]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its agencies hold five contracts with Serco. The purpose and monetary value of each contract is shown in the following table.

Agency name	*Purpose*	*Monetary value, per annum (£)*
DVLA	Occupational Health Service	420,000
Highways Agency	Electronic System for Delivery of Abnormal Loads (2012) (ESDAL system)	809,588
Highways Agency	Highways Agency Traffic Management System (HATMS) Software Maintenance	4,500,000
Highways Agency	Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads Phase 5	629,970
Highways Agency	Project Support Framework (Consultancy) 2010-14, Type A Suppliers	96,250

In addition, Serco is a prime subcontractor on another contract and is in joint venture arrangements with other suppliers on a further two. The purpose and monetary value for these contracts are shown in the following table.

Agency name	*Supplier*	*Purpose*	*Value, per annum (£)*
Highways Agency	Serco is the prime subcontractor for the Traffic Information Services (TIS) Ltd	National Traffic Control Centre	16,000,000
Highways Agency	SERCO/Costain Joint Venture	Major Projects Framework Contract	500,000,000
Highways Agency	SERCO/WSP Joint Venture	HADECS (Highways Agency Digital Enforcement Camera System) Framework Contract	5,800,000

Shared Service Centre

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress his Department has made on divestment of its shared service centre; and if he will make a statement. [67073]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's board decided on 9 December 2010 that its preferred option for the shared service centre in Swansea was that it would be divested to a private sector provider. In taking this decision, the board has committed to buying shared services from the new owner for up to 10 years and plans to require the new owner to retain a significant presence in Swansea.

The actual process of looking for a new provider began on 18 July with the issuance of a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). It is expected that the divestment process will be completed by May 2012.

Shipping: EU Action

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals his Department has made to the International Maritime Organisation in the course of the organisation's work on European standards on ship's navigation bridge visibility. [64106]

Mike Penning: Neither the UK on its own nor the European Union collectively has submitted formal proposals to the International Maritime Organization about European standards on navigation bridge visibility for ships.

Shipping: Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of lower sulphur emission levels in emission control areas on freight shipping. [67753]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport's Maritime and Coastguard Agency commissioned a report entitled 'Impact Assessment for the revised Annex VI of MARPOL', which was completed in 2009 and includes consideration of the costs for the shipping industry and other stakeholders of implementing the lower sulphur emission levels in emission control areas.

South West Trains: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been shortlisted to provide additional rolling stock for the South West Trains passenger rail franchise; and when he expects to announce the award of the contract. [65240]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is not procuring these trains and therefore is unable to disclose this information. The train operator is leading on this procurement.

The Department is in negotiation with Stagecoach South West Trains regarding the commercial terms for operating such trains. Should commercial agreement be reached, an announcement will be made in due course.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the decision to award the Thameslink contract to an overseas consortium. [63922]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The requirements of EU law mean that Ministers are not permitted to discuss the details of individual bids for contracts before they are awarded. The invitation to tender produced in 2008 specified the evaluation criteria by which bids for the Thameslink contract would be judged. The Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills have subsequently discussed the award of the Thameslink contract and its implications and have jointly written to the Prime Minister outlining their proposals for the growth review to include consideration of the way EU procurement rules are applied in the UK, a proposal the Prime Minister has agreed to.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date *(a)* officials in his Department were, *(b)* Ministers in his Department were and *(c)* he was informed of the outcome of the tender for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [64750]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* DFT officials confirmed the result of the procurement evaluation on an anonymised basis and made a recommendation to a DFT board sub-committee meeting on 4 May 2011. The Secretary of State for Transport was asked to endorse this recommendation, with the bids still anonymised, on 12 May 2011. He was informed of the bidders' identities later that same day after he had endorsed the recommendation.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what submissions from members of the public he has received on the announcement of Siemens as the preferred bidder for the Thameslink contract. [65651]

Mrs Villiers: As of 11 July I had received 270 submissions from members of the public on the announcement of Siemens and Cross London Trains as the preferred bidder for the Thameslink contract.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the Thameslink contract to domestic economic output; and if he will make a statement. [65659]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The evaluation criteria set for the Thameslink procurement by the previous Government do not include an assessment of domestic economic output. Under European procurement rules, it is not permitted to specify the location of manufacturing facilities as a condition of contract awards. Siemens has indicated that this contract would generate up to 2,000 jobs in the UK.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, whether he took steps to establish the likely effect on domestic employment levels of the announcement of the preferred bidder; and whether such matters were taken into account during the tendering process. [65661]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The criteria against which bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract were judged were set by the previous

Government and included an evaluation of affordability, value for money and deliverability. The likely effect on domestic employment levels was not one of the evaluation criteria specified in the invitation to tender.

I understand that Bombardier is currently reviewing its UK operation. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, with support from the Department for Transport, has set up an economic response task force to help ensure that the rail industry supply chain in Derby and elsewhere exploits all opportunities in the UK and overseas.

Siemens, the nominated preferred bidder for Thameslink, has stated that up to 2,000 new jobs will be created in the UK as a result of the contract, comprising train component manufacturing, construction of the depots and subsequent maintenance of the new fleet of trains.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-6WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the announcement of the preferred bidder for the Thameslink contract on east-midlands companies operating in the rail sector. [65795]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) today (UIN 63731).

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-6WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, what consideration the Government gave to the findings of the 2009 report produced by URS Corporation Limited for Derby city council, the East Midlands Development Agency and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce in assessing the bid from Bombardier for the Thameslink contract. [65796]

Mrs Villiers: The report to which the hon. Gentleman refers was not considered in the evaluation of the bids regarding the Thameslink rolling stock project since it was not relevant to the criteria set for the procurement by the previous Government.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the potential effects of job losses arising from the appointment of Siemens as preferred bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock project. [66293]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have regular discussions with my Cabinet colleagues on a wide range of issues.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of Derby and the surrounding area of the decision to award the Thameslink contract to an overseas consortium. [63731]

Mrs Villiers: The criteria against which bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract were judged were set by the previous Government and included an evaluation of the affordability, value for money and deliverability.

I understand that Bombardier is currently reviewing its UK operation. While this is of course primarily a commercial matter for Bombardier, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, with support from the Department for Transport, has set up an economic response task force to help ensure that the rail industry supply chain in Derby and elsewhere exploits all opportunities in the UK and overseas.

Siemens, the nominated preferred bidder for Thameslink, has stated that up to 2,000 new jobs will be created in the UK as a result of the contract, comprising train component manufacturing, construction of the depots and subsequent maintenance of the new fleet of trains.

Thameslink: Trade Unions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink Rolling Stock, whether Siemens has committed to recognising the trade unions representing train maintenance staff at First Capital Connect (FCC) when the contract for the rolling stock maintenance transfers from FCC to Siemens; and what steps he has taken to secure such a commitment. [65022]

Mrs Villiers: The Thameslink rolling stock project invitation to tender did not require bidders to give a general commitment to recognise trade unions. However, where existing First Capital Connect maintenance staff transfer to Siemens and the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) apply, any rights of the employee to union recognition will be preserved.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink Rolling Stock, whether bidders' policies on *(a)* industrial relations and *(b)* union recognition were taken into account when awarding the Thameslink contract. [65023]

Mrs Villiers: The criteria against which bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract were judged were set by the previous Government and included an evaluation of affordability, value for money and deliverability. No criteria relating to industrial relations or union recognition were included in the invitation to tender.

Transport: Cleethorpes

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to *(a)* road, *(b)* railway and *(c)* port infrastructure in Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last 10 years. [67362]

Mike Penning: The information is not available in the form requested.

However, the following table lists the integrated transport and highway maintenance blocks, which are capital funding used by local transport authorities for small transport improvement schemes costing less than £5 million and for resurfacing, maintenance or replacement of bridges/tunnels and occasional reinstatement of roads following natural disasters.

£000

Financial year	Integrated transport block allocated to north-east Lincolnshire	Maintenance block allocated to north-east Lincolnshire	Total allocated to north-east Lincolnshire
2001-02	2,100	965	3,065
2002-03	4,700	970	5,670
2003-04	3,600	1,128	4,728
2004-05	3,220	2,067	5,287
2005-06	2,000	961	2,961
2006-07	2,185	1,025	3,210
2007-08	2,231	1,168	3,399
2008-09	2,058	1,207	3,265
2009-10	1,901	1,327	3,228
2010-11	1,297	1,526	2,823
2011-12	1,698	1,126	2,824
2012-13[1]	1,646	1,201	2,847

[1] As announced to the House on 13 December 2010.

It is for the authority to determine how these allocations are spent in line with its priorities.

In addition, funding for the routine maintenance of local roads is provided through the Communities and Local Government Department's revenue support grant. This grant is also unhypothecated and may be applied to any services.

The ports industry operates on a commercial basis and does not normally receive funding from Government. However, a grant of £382,480 was awarded by the Strategic Rail Authority to DFDS Tor Line Ltd in November 2002. This grant was provided to support the cost of facilities at the DFDS Nordic terminal at the port of Immingham.

Transport: Livestock

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vessels transporting live farm animals have used the port of Ramsgate in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [67045]

Mike Penning: One vessel has used the port of Ramsgate to transport live farm animals in the last six months.

Transport: Per Capita Costs

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the level of expenditure per person on transport infrastructure in *(a)* Yorkshire, *(b)* London, *(c)* England, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Wales in each year since 2006. [67262]

Mrs Villiers: Total expenditure on transport infrastructure is not held centrally.

Information about capital and current expenditure by central Government and local government, together with capital expenditure by public corporations, is collected and published by HM Treasury. This will include non-infrastructure spend. The latest figures for total expenditure for 2005-06 to 2009-10 are published in Table 9.8e in Chapter 9 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis, Country and Regional Analysis, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_chapter9.pdf

This table gives total expenditure as well as capital and current expenditure for each English region, including Yorkshire and the Humber and London, for England as a whole, and for Scotland and Wales.

Total expenditure on transport (capital and current together) on a per person basis can be found in Table 9.15 of the same document.

West Coast InterCity

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has allocated *(a)* funding and *(b)* staff for preparation of safety documentation should Directly Operated Railways become responsible for the InterCity West Coast rail franchise. [62822]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 29 June 2011]:* The Department is currently in commercial negotiations to secure interim operations for the Intercity West Coast franchise from 1 April to 9 December 2012. As per arrangements for any forthcoming franchise end date, the Department has appropriate contingency funding and resourcing available.

The existing contract already allows for a six-month extension if required.

JUSTICE

Arrests

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons arrested in Cambridgeshire have been processed in the police investigation centre near King's Lynn since its opening; and what the average cost of processing such persons was. [64677]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

A total of 19,959 individuals were arrested in Cambridgeshire in 2009-10, which are the latest figures available. Information about the number of individuals processed in the police investigations centre and the average cost of processing those individuals is not collected centrally.

Bail

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men (1) absconded while awaiting trial in each year since 2001; [66408]

(2) released on bail were found to have interfered with witnesses while awaiting trial in each year since 2001. [66409]

Mr Blunt: The number of females and males proceeded against at magistrates courts for absconding while on bail in England and Wales from 2001 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not record how many defendants released on bail were found to have interfered with witnesses while awaiting trial.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Number of females and males proceeded against at the magistrates courts for absconding[1], England and Wales, 2001-10[2, 3]

Sex	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Absconding by person released on bail										
Female	7,006	8,259	9,891	8,963	8,012	6,946	6,044	5,256	4,696	5,022
Male	38,041	43,928	47,671	48,037	44,250	40,834	35,297	28,354	25,042	26,475
Not stated[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	274	201	167
Total	45,047	52,187	57,562	57,000	52,262	47,780	41,341	33,884	29,939	31,664

[1] Bail Act 1976, section 6.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Following the introduction of the Libra case management system during 2008, offenders at magistrates courts can now be recorded as sex 'not stated'.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Blagging

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Acts of Parliament have established that activities commonly referred to as blagging are criminal offences. [66891]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Although the activity known as "blagging" is not defined in legislation, there are several Acts that provide for criminal offences which are relevant in this area, depending on the circumstances of the case.

These offences may include fraud by false representation under the Fraud Act 2006 and unlawfully obtaining personal data without the consent of the data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998.

In many cases, blagging may be part of a course of criminal conduct which also includes the commission of other offences such as unlawful interception of communications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and unauthorised access to computer material under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Chief Coroner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the *(a)* Shipman inquiry and *(b)* Luce review in relation to a chief coroner. [66470]

Mr Djanogly: A number of recommendations from the Shipman inquiry and the Luce review were taken forward in Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The Ministry of Justice has considered how powers in the 2009 Act should be implemented in light of the decision not to proceed with the office of the Chief Coroner. The results of this assessment were set out in the Secretary of State's statement to Parliament of 14 June 2011.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Government intend *(a)* to allow for the recoverability of after-the-event insurance premiums for expert reports in clinical negligence cases and *(b)* not to allow for the recoverability of such premiums for expert reports in other complex personal injury cases under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [66195]

Mr Djanogly: As indicated in "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales - Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response", published and announced to Parliament on 29 March 2011, Cm 8041, the Government are aware of specific concerns in relation to the funding of expert reports in clinical negligence cases. Such reports, which can be expensive, are of particular importance in clinical negligence actions, where they are generally necessary to establish liability before it can be determined whether a potential claim has sufficient merit to be pursued.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what effects he anticipates enactment of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill and associated secondary legislation will have on the after-the-event insurance industry. [66196]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have published an impact assessment alongside the reforms proposed in the Government response paper "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales - Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" on 29 March 2011, Cm 8041, now being taken forward in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. This impact assessment identifies potential impacts on individuals, groups and businesses.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whom he intends to consult in the development of secondary legislation related to the civil litigation funding and costs clauses of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [66197]

Mr Djanogly: The Government's response paper "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales - Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: the Government Response" published on 29 March 2011, Cm 8041, confirmed that the Government would continue to discuss with stakeholders how the detail of various elements of the package of reform should be drafted and that consultation on the changes to be implemented by way of secondary legislation would follow in due course as appropriate. My officials are in discussion with the Civil Justice Council and others with a view to setting up expert groups to consider these issues. Further details will be published in due course.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to implement Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on qualified one-way cost shifting and the introduction of an additional sanction under part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules. [66275]

Mr Djanogly: The Government intend to implement the proposals for qualified one-way costs shifting and an additional sanction under part 36, as indicated in "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales - Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response", which was published and announced to Parliament on 29 March 2011, Cm 8041. Clause 51 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill makes provision to allow an additional sanction under part 36. Qualified one-way costs shifting will be implemented by way of amendment to the Civil Procedure Rules.

Community Legal Advice: Finance

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the Community Legal Advice helpline in each of the last five years. [66130]

Mr Djanogly: The cost of the Community Legal Advice helpline, established in July 2004, is provided in the following table:

	£ million
2005-06	8.4
2006-07	12.1
2007-08	16.7
2008-09	19.1
2009-10	23.8
2010-11[1]	23.3

[1] Figures for 2010-11 are unaudited.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he plans to allocate to the Community Legal Advice helpline in each of the next three years. [66131]

Mr Djanogly: Provisional funding allocation for the Community Legal Advice helpline (both operator and specialist advice services) for 2011-12 is approximately £23 million. Finalised allocation is pending detailed planning, following the Government's publication of the legal aid reform consultation response.

No funding allocations have yet been made for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67214]

Mr Djanogly: Further to my answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 172W, and given our responsibility for administering employment tribunals and the wider courts system, my Department has been consulted throughout on the proposals for the employment law review. In particular, we have worked closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on proposals contained in the resolving workplace disputes consultation, which was a joint exercise with my Department. My officials meet with counterparts from BIS regularly in this and other regards.

Coroners

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met several charities at the same time to discuss coroner reform; what organisations were present on each occasion; and what the dates of these meetings were. [66473]

Mr Djanogly: On 25 October 2010 I held a meeting with the following organisations:

INQUEST;
Royal British Legion;
British Lung Foundation;
Cardiac Risk in the Young;
Action Against Medical Accidents;
RoadPeace;
Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association;
Child Bereavement Charity;
Victim Support;
Epilepsy Bereaved;
Compassionate Friends;
Cruse Bereavement Care; and
Coroners' Court Support Service.

In addition to this meeting, I met the Royal British Legion on 1 February 2011, INQUEST on 27 April 2011, Cardiac Risk in the Young on 9 May 2011, and the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and I met the Royal British Legion on 12 May 2011.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements have been agreed between his Department and the Scottish Government on the holding of fatal accident inquiries into the deaths of armed forces personnel based in Scotland. [66074]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Scottish Government and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service are in the process of agreeing a protocol for effective liaison where it might be appropriate to hold a fatal accident inquiry in Scotland.

The protocol will support statutory provisions being introduced under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 that will allow, for the first time, investigations into the deaths abroad of military personnel to be transferred, where appropriate, to Scotland in order for a fatal accident Inquiry to be held.

Coroners: Judicial Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days of the High Court were spent on judicial reviews relating to inquests in each year since 2006-07. [66471]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not routinely keep a record of the sitting time for individual cases. To obtain the information where sitting times have been recorded would be at disproportionate cost because each case file would need to be checked manually to establish whether a sitting time had been recorded. Even then, the information would be incomplete.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judicial reviews relating to inquests were heard in the High Court in each year since 2006-07. [66472]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service has provided the following figures in relation to judicial review proceedings brought against coroners' decisions in the administrative court for each financial year since 2006-07.

Judicial review civil: coroners

	Oral applications	*Paper applications*	*Renewal hearings*	*Substantive hearings*
2006-07	3	10	2	3
2007-08	5	20	1	4
2008-09	4	16	12	5
2009-10	1	14	6	12
2010-11	1	13	3	3

While every effort has been made to ensure that these figures are accurate, the information has been extracted from a large administrative data system and may be subject to minor amendments following data validation in due course.

Courts: Enforcement Services

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to assess the financial position of a private company providing criminal court enforcement services. [66676]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is developing a strategy for the enforcement of fines and how best to improve this in the future. This could include forming a partnership with a commercial partner.

No tender process has commenced as yet for the provision of enforcement functions. The relevant financial evaluation criteria in respect of the competition will be published at the appropriate stages in the procurement exercise and in accordance with Government policy.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to require private sector companies to make payments to his Department in relation to the tendering process for criminal court enforcement contracts. [66677]

Mr Djanogly: The relevant details of any competition will be published at the appropriate stages in the procurement exercise and in accordance with Government policy.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a private sector operator of a contract for collection of criminal court fines will be able to place a charge on offenders. [66678]

Mr Djanogly: No tender process is under way for the provision of the collection of court fines. Therefore, the detail about the provision of services is not yet known.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors; [66615]

(2) how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66617]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not have specific policies requiring prime contractors or suppliers to offer *(a)* apprenticeships or *(b)* other training.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has taken a number of steps to ensure compliance with the guidance produced by the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement published in 2009.

We have published our commitment to the programme on the MoJ procurement website, where it is available for suppliers and members of the public to view.

We have inserted a new schedule in our standard tender documents explaining this important initiative and, where appropriate, requiring tenderers to ensure that a specified proportion of hours worked on the contract are to be delivered by an employee on an apprentice or training programme.

For the financial year 2008-09 the number of apprenticeships created directly by Ministry of Justice contracts was not recorded, and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

For the financial year 2009-10 it was reported that 12 new apprenticeship placements were supported through Ministry of Justice contracts.

For the financial year 2010-11, data has yet to be collated and reported upon, but it is the intention to have this information on record by September 2011.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66751]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice works on actual data for carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions from the Ministry of Justice office estate in June 2010 amounted to 9,768 tonnes. This does not include any emissions from the National Offender Management Service custodial estate or HM Land Registry ancillary estate.

Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011 the Ministry of Justice delivered a reduction of 11.5% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate.

The Ministry is unable to provide figures for June 2011 as it is still collating and validating this data.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010; [66328]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66335]

Mr Djanogly: We have been unable to gather all the information my right hon. Friend has requested in the time scale. These data are not held centrally and have been requested from our non-departmental bodies. I will write to him with a full response when this information is available.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* offenders and *(b)* staff there were at HMP Birmingham on 1 October of each of the last five years; and if he will estimate the equivalent numbers for 1 October 2011. [66452]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the prison population at HMP Birmingham on the last Friday of September in each of the last five years. There are no planned changes to the operational capacity at HMP Birmingham.

	Number of prisoners
29 September 2006	1,450
24 September 2007	1,458
26 September 2008	1,433
25 September 2009	1,409
24 September 2010	1,449

The following table shows the staff in post at HMP Birmingham on 30 September 2006 to 2010.

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
30 September 2006	806	788
30 September 2007	803	784
30 September 2008	816	792
30 September 2009	785	758
30 September 2010	751	720

From October 2011 HMP Birmingham will be run by G4S. Discussions are ongoing with trade unions on the terms of this transfer in line with the TUPE Regulations. It is not possible to estimate the staffing position as at 1 October 2011 as staff at HMP Birmingham may continue to apply for roles elsewhere in the public sector prior to the transfer date.

Electronic Tagging: Children

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children released from custody were placed on a tag in the most recent year for which figures are available; [65965]

(2) how many children released from custody and placed on a tag were recalled to custody following a breach of their licence conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available; [65966]

(3) how many children released from custody and placed on a tag were serving a detention and training order in the most recent year for which figures are available; [65967]

(4) how many children released from custody were recalled following a breach of their licence conditions in each youth offending team area in the latest period for which figures are available; [65968]

(5) how many children released from custody and placed on a tag while serving a detention and training order were recalled to custody following a breach of their licence conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [65969]

Mr Blunt: A young person can be placed on electronic monitoring as part of their bail package, as part of a curfew order or, if they are sentenced, due to a condition of their licence.

The total number of juvenile cases (under 18) monitored electronically following release from custody in the financial year 2010-11 was 1656.

The total number of juvenile cases (under 18) monitored electronically following release from custody on a detention and training order (DTO) in the financial year 2010-11 was 1603.

The following table shows the number of young people who started a recall to custody episode in 2009-10 following a breach of their licence conditions (regardless of when their original sentence was) in each youth offending team (YOT) area. This was 630 in total.

Information relating to the number of children released from custody and placed on a tag were recalled to custody following a breach of their licence conditions is not held centrally in an electronic format. To collect this data would involve contacting all 158 YOTs and asking them to check individual case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Table 1. Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode in 2009-10 in each YOT area

Youth offending team	*Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode*
Barking and Dagenham	4
Barnet	0
Barnsley	2
Bath and North East Somerset	5
Bedfordshire	5
Bexley	1
Birmingham	17
Blackburn with Darwen	5
Blackpool	1
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	4
Bolton	3
Bournemouth and Poole	0
Bracknell Forest	2
Bradford	8
Brent	2
Bridgend	2
Brighton and Hove	1
Bristol	6
Bromley	1
Buckinghamshire	3
Bury	3
Calderdale	3

Table 1. Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode in 2009-10 in each YOT area

Youth offending team	*Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode*
Cambridgeshire	0
Camden	0
Cardiff	5
Carmarthenshire	6
Ceredigion	0
Cheshire	6
Conwy and Denbighshire	2
Cornwall	1
Coventry	5
Croydon	5
Cumbria	10
Darlington	5
Derby	9
Derbyshire	4
Devon	0
Doncaster	5
Dorset	0
Dudley	1
Durham	6
Ealing	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	2
East Sussex	8
Enfield	0
Essex	7
Flintshire	3
Gateshead	7
Gloucestershire	1
Greenwich	1
Gwynedd Mon	4
Hackney	2
Halton and Warrington	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0
Haringey	1
Harrow	1
Hartlepool	0
Havering	2
Hertfordshire	3
Hillingdon	0
Hounslow	1
Islington	2
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Kent	10
Kingston-Upon-Hull	5
Kingston-Upon-Thames	2
Kirklees	5
Knowsley	6
Lambeth	1
Lancashire	15
Leeds	18
Leicester City	11
Leicestershire	1
Lewisham	1
Lincolnshire	4
Liverpool	12
Luton	1
Manchester	29
Medway	3
Merthyr Tydfil	7
Merton	3
Milton Keynes	1
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0
Neath Port Talbot	1
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	5
Newham	5
Newport	3
Norfolk	9
North East Lincolnshire	0
North Lincolnshire	4
North Somerset	1
North Tyneside	5
North Yorkshire	6
Northamptonshire	5
Northumberland	2
Nottingham	25
Nottinghamshire	4
Oldham	5
Oxfordshire	3
Pembrokeshire	1
Peterborough	5
Plymouth	1
Powys	0
Reading	3
Redbridge	3
Rhondda Cynon Taff	3
Richmond-upon-Thames	1
Rochdale	11
Rotherham	4
Salford	2
Sandwell	3
Sefton	1
Sheffield	9
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	2
Slough	0
Solihull	2
Somerset	4
South Gloucestershire	0
South Tees	13
South Tyneside	2
Southend-on-Sea	3
Southwark	8
St. Helens	3
Staffordshire	4
Stockport	3
Stockton-on-Tees	2
Stoke-on-Trent	4
Suffolk	9
Sunderland	4
Surrey	0
Sutton	0
Swansea	2
Swindon	1
Tameside	1
Thurrock	4
Torbay	1
Tower Hamlets and City of London	0
Trafford	4
Vale of Glamorgan	1

Table 1. Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode in 2009-10 in each YOT area

Youth offending team	*Number of young people who started a recall to custody episode*
Wakefield	2
Walsall	2
Waltham Forest	2
Wandsworth	6
Warwickshire	0
Wessex	38
West Berkshire	2
West Sussex	2
Westminster	5
Wigan	6
Wiltshire	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	0
Wirral	5
Wokingham	0
Wolverhampton	2
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	10
Wrexham	7
York	3
Total	630

1. The data come from the YJB's secure accommodation clearing house system (SACHS).
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible data entry and processing errors and may be subject to change over time.

Immigration Advisory Service

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Immigration Advisory Service regarding the status of the current clients of the service and their on-going legal cases. [66851]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has been working closely with the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) for some time now following an audit which raised concerns about the company's financial management and claims irregularities, and as such the Trustees of the IAS decided that the organisation had to enter into administration on 8 July 2011.

The primary concern for the Government and the LSC now is to ensure clients of IAS continue to get the help they need. The LSC expects that the administration of IAS will allow a managed close down process of IAS's activities and an orderly transfer of clients to new providers. Provisional arrangements have been made to ensure that any emergency cases are dealt with speedily.

Meanwhile the LSC is identifying alternative advice provision in the areas affected and arrangements for case transfer will follow as soon as possible. Three IAS hub centres will be kept open for the moment: in Manchester, Birmingham and Bradford, which will help facilitate the transfer of these cases.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure repayment of money which the Immigration Advisory Service claimed in error to the Legal Services Commission. [66852]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working with the administrators to establish the value of claims for work that had not been submitted for payment when the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) entered administration, following a decision by its Trustees on 8 July 2011. These claims will be set off against any sum that is confirmed as being owed to the LSC as a result of the contract compliance audit, which has not yet concluded.

Judges: Retirement

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements govern the posts former judges are able to take up following the end of their appointment. [66988]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Salaried judicial office holders are appointed on the understanding that they do not return to private practice as a barrister or solicitor in their former jurisdiction. Former judges may, however, provide services as independent arbitrators or mediators.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many clinical negligence claims made with assistance from legal aid by claimants in north Wales were successful in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much was paid to (i) the claimants and (ii) their legal representatives in consequence in each such year. [65912]

Mr Djanogly: In relation to damages paid to claimants resulting from clinical negligence cases in north Wales, this information is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Volume*	*Damages (£)*	*Legal fees (£)*
2008-09	5	353,200	0
2009-10	13	295,000	25,360

Payment of damages reflects amounts paid in cases closed in the financial year. The amount of fees paid will reflect instances where a case is settled and costs have been agreed between the parties. These fees may relate to cases that settled in previous years.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria will be used to determine the most serious cases under his proposals for reform of legal aid; and how many cases met those criteria in 2009-10. [66694]

Mr Djanogly: The starting point for our consideration has been to examine, from first principles, which issues should attract public funding in the light of the financial constraints. In reaching our proposals, we have taken into account our domestic, European and international legal obligations, including the European convention on human rights, and have also taken into account the importance of the issue at stake in the case, the litigant's ability to present their own case, the availability of alternative sources of funding and the availability of other routes of resolution. Our impact assessment shows that, based on cases funded in 2009-10, we intend to retain approximately 390,000 acts of assistance within scope of the civil legal aid scheme.

Legal Aid Scheme: Children

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether children representing themselves in civil cases will have access to legal aid under his proposed reforms to legal aid. [66516]

Mr Djanogly: For cases retained within the scope of the civil legal aid scheme, children and adults will have access to legal aid, subject to the usual tests of financial means and the merits of the case. We have announced our intention to retain legal aid for children for family proceedings. This will primarily be where the judge decides that it is in the best interests of the child for them to be separately represented from the other parties in the case (usually their parents).

For cases that will be excluded from the scope of the civil legal aid scheme, there will be a safety net in the form of our exceptional funding scheme. This will allow funding to be granted in individual excluded cases where failure to provide funding would amount to a breach of the individual's rights to legal aid under the Human Rights Act 1988 or EU law. In considering whether exceptional funding should be granted, we will take into account the ability of the client to present their own case, the complexity of the issues, the importance of the issues at stake and all other relevant circumstances. In the vast majority of civil cases, parents will be bringing proceedings on behalf of their children as their litigation friend. Where children are acting without a litigation friend, this would be taken into consideration in deciding whether they had the ability to present their own case.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil cases relating to *(a)* debt, *(b)* immigration, *(c)* housing and *(d)* benefits where legal aid advice or representation was provided involved a self-represented child or a child represented by a legal guardian in 2009-10; and what the cost to the public purse was of legal aid in each category of case. [66693]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not hold information which clearly distinguishes between children who represented themselves and children represented by a legal guardian. However, the following tables outline the volume of cases and the costs to legal aid to represent persons under the age of 18 years in the financial year 2009-10 for matters involving debt, housing, immigration and asylum, and welfare benefits.

Civil representation 2009-10

Category	*Closed cases*	*Closed case spend (£)*
Debt	4	20,926
Housing	162	328,661
Immigration and Asylum	72	226,709
Welfare Benefits	2	5,701
Sub total	240	581,997

Legal help 2009-10

Category	*Claim volume*	*Claim value (£)*
Debt	127	26,590
Housing	1,308	294,460
Immigration and Asylum	11,412	10,365,387
Welfare Benefits	1,278	249,608
Sub total	14,125	10,936,045

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases where legal aid advice or representation was provided, involved *(a)* children at risk of abuse and *(b)* international child abduction in 2009-10; and what the cost to the public purse was of the legal aid provided in such cases. [66695]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record information separately that counts those cases where there are concerns that children are at risk of abuse. Table 1 shows the number of public law family cases and spend for 2009-10. It is considered that it is likely that children funded in these categories may be at risk of abuse.

Table 2 shows the number of international child abduction cases and expenditure funded under a legal aid certificate. However, there may also be other types of matters, such as wardship, which involve issues of child abduction. These figures exclude advice and assistance under legal help as the LSC does not record this level of detail under legal help.

Table 1: Public law family cases, 2009-10

Category	*Volume of closed cases*	*Closed case spend (£000)*
Special Children Act	27,233	265,690
Other public law children	7,078	38,097

Table 2: International child abduction cases, 2009-10

Proceeding code	*Volume of closed cases*	*Closed case spend (£000)*
Child Abduction/ Custody Act 1985	182	2,231
Child Abduction/ Custody free (non means-tested)	188	2,598

Legal Aid Scheme: Domestic Violence

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claimants have received legal aid in relation to domestic violence cases in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of legal aid in relation to domestic violence cases in each of the last five years. [66284]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid in domestic violence funds two levels of service; legal help for initial advice, and civil representation funded under a legal aid certificate in cases likely to proceed to court.

The value of legal aid claims under legal help and the number of matters started are included in Table A.

Table A

	Volume	*Value (£ million)*
2005-06	16,786	3.3
2006-07	16,974	3.4

Table A

	Volume	Value (£ million)
2007-08	26,245	5.2
2008-09[1]	29,360	6.4
2009-10[1]	28,724	6.9

[1] Before October 2007 it was possible to report only one matter in family legal help e.g. children or domestic violence. The new way of recording allows the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to record multiple matters. So advice involving both children and domestic violence can now be recorded as such. Whereas it would have been domestic violence or children before.

The expenditure and the number of cases funded under a legal aid certificate are included in Table B.

Table B

	Volume	Value (£ million)
2005-06	21,222	62.1
2006-07	19,509	59.3
2007-08	19,631	61.7
2008-09	21,645	69.3
2009-10	20,984	64.3

Table C shows the number of cases funded under a legal aid certificate together with the legal costs where they are met by the opponent to the party funded under legal aid.

Table C

	Volume	Value (£ million)
2005-06	40	0.2
2006-07	43	0.2
2007-08	36	0.2
2008-09	26	0.2
2009-10	16	0.1

Legal Aid Scheme: Per Capita Costs

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which countries his Department used to benchmark the average cost per head of legal aid; and what the average cost per head is in each such country. [67334]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry's assessment of the average cost per head of legal aid abroad relies on the research report "International Comparison of Publicly Funded Legal Services and Justice Systems" which provides robust comparisons of legal aid spending in England and Wales and a selection of European and non-European countries, as well as an assessment of the difficulties of international comparisons in this area. It is published on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/comparison-public-fund-legal-services-justice-systems.pdf

In addition, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) publishes reports on "European Judicial Systems: Efficiency and Quality of Justice", which are updated every two years. These reports contain a range of information on judicial systems, including legal aid, for a broad selection of European countries. The latest report is available at

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/cepej/evaluation/default_en.asp

Legal Costs

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to table 6.5, chapter 2, of the Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Preliminary Report, May 2009, what costs were paid by defendants to the claimants' solicitors in each type and category in respect of category B claims concluded in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [65916]

Mr Djanogly: The table the hon. Gentleman refers to appears at Part 2: Chapter 6 of Lord Justice Jackson's preliminary report of his review of civil litigation costs, and the data were provided by the Legal Services Commission. Equivalent figures for *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 are available on the Legal Services Commission's website, in the annual 'statistical information' publications. I should point out that the figures relate to financial years, rather than calendar years.

The figures for 2008-09 can be found in table CLS9 in 'Statistical Information 2008-09', available at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/archive/archive_about.asp

The figures for 2009-10 can be found in table CLS9 in 'Statistical Information 2009-10 - July 2010', available at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic_publications.asp#annual

Magistrates Courts: ICT

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value in today's prices is of the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* final cost of the magistrates courts Libra computer system; and what additional costs, in current prices have been incurred since its completion. [65635]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The original ICL bid for the Libra project in May 1998 estimated its cost at £146 million over 11 years; and

(b) the project's outturn cost when it closed on 31 March 2009 was £444 million (comprising £232 million for infrastructure (completed 2003); and £212 million for the application (completed 2008)). The ongoing service charge for the Libra application has been £10 million in each of the years 2009-10 and 2010-11, and for the current financial year it is £11.4 million. Maintenance and development costs for the Libra infrastructure are subsumed under a contract which serves Crown and county courts, tribunals and HQ, as well as magistrates courts, and it is not possible to provide separate figures for these. To calculate the monetary value of the Libra project in today's prices for the whole of its life-cycle would incur disproportionate cost.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 62-4W on child sexual exploitation, what offences relating to child sexual exploitation were included in the data provided. [66212]

Mr Blunt: The offence descriptions relating to child sexual exploitation that were included in the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 62-4W, can be viewed in the following table.

Offences relating to child sexual exploitation

Statute	*Section*	*Description*
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.1	Rape and attempted rape of a child under 16
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.5	Rape and attempted rape of a child under 13
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.6	Assault on a child under 13 by Penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.7	Sexual assault of a child under 13
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.8 (1) and (2) and (3)	Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.9	Sexual activity with a child
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.10	Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.11	Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.12	Causing a child to watch a sexual act
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.14	Arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.15	Meeting a child following sexual grooming
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.47	Paying for sexual services of a child
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.48	Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.49	Controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography
Sexual Offences Act 2003	S.50	Arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography
Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.142	S.1	Rape and attempted rape of a child
Sexual Offences Act 1956	S.5	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a child under 13
Sexual Offences Act 1956	S.6	Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl child under 16
Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act	S.12	Buggery or attempted buggery
Sexual Offences Act 1956	S.25	Householder permitting girl under 13 years to use premises for intercourse
Sexual Offences Act 1956	S.26	Householder permitting girl under 16 years to use premises for intercourse
Sexual Offences Act 1956	S.28	Causing or encouraging prostitution of, intercourse with, or indecent assault on, girl under sixteen
Indecency with Children Act 1960	Sec 1	Gross indecency with children

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders serving life sentences have cognitive self-change programmes in their sentence plans; [66464]

(2) how many cognitive self-change programme places there will be in prisons in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013. [66465]

Mr Blunt: Details of the individual sentence plan requirements for prisoners serving life sentences are not held centrally and the number of life-sentence prisoners with a recommendation in their sentence plan to complete the cognitive self-change programme (CSCP) could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by collecting information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

NOMS targets for the provision of places on accredited offending behaviour programmes are set for business years (i.e. 1 April to 31 March) rather than calendar years. In 2011-12 the target is to provide a total of 60 places for CSCP in prison establishments in England and Wales.

The targets for future years have yet to be set.

Offenders: Unpaid Work

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents occurred involving offenders in unpaid work groups of each size of group in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [66052]

Mr Blunt: Information is not collected on the size of the group of offenders in which an incident occurred.

Information is available on the number of incidents involving offenders in unpaid work in 2009 and 2010, and the average size of groups of offenders in unpaid work for 2010-11.

In 2009 there were at least 607 reported incidents involving offenders in unpaid work.

In 2010 there were at least 791 reported incidents involving offenders in unpaid work.

In 2010-11 the average size of groups of offenders in unpaid work was six.

Note:

Data are not available on incidents in the former Sussex probation area and so figures for 'Number of reported incidents involving offenders in unpaid work' in 2009 and 2010 will understate the total number of incidents.

Prisons: Discipline

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to make available to *(a)* the public, *(b)* victims of crime and *(c)* interested parties the disciplinary records of offenders while in prison, including details of (i) offences and (ii) breaches of prison rules committed while in custody. [67011]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 712W.

Prisons: Information Technology

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on development of a new IT system for the prison service between the commissioning of the system and the decision not to proceed with it. [66732]

Mr Blunt: The cost of the C-NOMIS project from inception to December 2007 was £160.7 million (before financing). A strategic review of the C-NOMIS project was requested by the then Minister of State, the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr Hanson), in August 2007 following discovery that the original business case was unaffordable. On 8 January 2008, the C-NOMIS project was revised and became part of the new NOMIS programme. The C-NOMIS project was delivered successfully, on time and within budget in May 2010.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many babies have been born to women committed to Prison Service custody in each of the last 15 years. [67132]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of women who have given birth in prison is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as in order to provide this information staff would need to look at each individual's record.

Prisons: Safety

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the standards of prison safety at HMP Birmingham on 1 October of each of the last five years; and if he will assess the likely standard on 1 October 2011. [66451]

Mr Blunt: Standards of prison safety are not measured at any one point in the year, but are subject to measurement throughout the year using a range of data and assessments.

Prisons are assessed regularly by external independent regulators, such as HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and the local independent monitoring board (IMB), by NOMS internal audit and assurance teams, including a "measuring the suality of prison life" (MQPL) survey, and by NOMS national performance management using key performance indicators and targets (KPIs and KPTs), which include measurement of safety and security among others.

Local management and staff are responsible for ensuring that safety, in all forms, is monitored on an ongoing basis and, where necessary, that prompt, corrective action is taken to minimise violence or self-harm.

All prisons are subject to assessment and audit by NOMS management and external regulation regardless of provider. This has applied to HMP Birmingham over the last five years and will apply to HMP Birmingham on 1 October 2011 and after the completion of the handover to G4S, the new provider.

Remand in Custody

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men remanded in custody in each year since 2001 subsequently received a custodial sentence that was served fully on remand; [66406]

(2) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were remanded in custody on the grounds of (i) being accused of a serious offence, (ii) risk of absconding, (iii) risk of interference of witnesses, (iv) lack of community ties and (v) risk of committing further offences in each year since 2001. [66407]

Mr Blunt: Information on bail and remand collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on the court proceedings database does not record the length of time defendants spent on remand. Therefore, it is not possible to say from the data available how many offenders receiving a custodial sentence served the time fully on remand.

Information on bail and remand collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on the court proceedings database does not record the reason(s) for remanding defendants into custody.

The information regarding time spent on remand and reasons for remanding defendants to custody could be ascertained only by reference to individual court and prison files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in custody on remand *(a)* on the last Friday of each month since May 2010 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [66688]

Mr Blunt: Monthly prison population statistics are typically reported based on the last day of the month, rather than the last Friday of the month. The following table shows the number of prisoners on remand as at the end of each month from May 2010 to March 2011 (latest published).

Remand prison population

	Number
May 2010	12,958
June 2010	13,004
July 2010	12,611
August 2010	13,028
September 2010	12,706
October 2010	12,755
November 2010	12,681
December 2010	11,784
January 2011	12,598
February 2011	12,615
March 2011	12,300

These figures are published on the Ministry of Justice website in table 1.2 of the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, most recently up to March 2011. The publication can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sexual Offences: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on sexual offences: Criminal Injuries Compensation, how many claims were made for compensation for *(a)* sexual assault injuries and *(b)* injuries categorised under the heading non-consensual vaginal and/or anal intercourse, or non-consensual penile penetration of the vagina and/or anus and/or mouth. [66503]

Mr Djanogly: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not hold that information. When people apply for criminal injuries compensation they are asking CICA to assess what happened to them, decide whether they are eligible for compensation and, if so, how much. Injury descriptions, from the criminal injuries compensation scheme's 'tariff of injuries', are used as the primary basis for paying compensation, so they are only reliably recorded once CICA has assessed someone as eligible to receive the compensation payable for that injury. Similarly, since payments are based on injuries and not crimes, CICA does not hold figures for how many people apply following a specific crime or type of crime.

Victim Support Schemes

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on supporting victims of crime and witnesses who were party to proceedings at York Crown court in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [65950]

Mr Djanogly: These figures are not recorded by my Department. The support of victims and witnesses party to proceedings at York Crown court are provided by a range of agencies, including the Victim's Service, HMCTS and the police. The agencies consider, on an individual basis, what support to provide to victims and witnesses depending upon their circumstances.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disabled employees of his Department are receiving support from the Access to Work programme; and what proportion of the workforce of his Department this figure represents. [64390]

Mr Davey: There are no disabled employees in the Department receiving support from the Access to Work programme. Support under this programme was withdrawn from central Government Departments, including predecessors of BIS, in 2006.

It is not possible to give an exact number of disabled employees who receive support in the form of workplace assessment or reasonable adjustments in line with those previously provided under the Access to Work programme as some reasonable adjustments are agreed between disabled employees and their line managers without a formal assessment process being required and are not therefore recorded or funded centrally.

Some 280 employees have notified the Department that they have a disability and would as a consequence be offered a workplace assessment for recommended reasonable adjustments. The Department funded 48 workplace assessments during 2010.

Aimhigher Programme

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of activities to be delivered *(a)* following the end of the Aimhigher programme and *(b)* in the academic year 2011-12; and how such activities will be delivered; [66794]

(2) what assessment he has made of the ability of universities to provide support and impartial service to students equivalent to that offered under the Aimhigher programme. [66795]

Mr Willetts: We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on institutions to widen participation and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Higher education institutions (HEIs) will deliver a range of outreach activities as part of their access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), and their widening participation strategic assessments, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

We are moving away from an assessment of inputs and processes to a focus on clear outputs from access activities and measurable progress against appropriate benchmarks.

It is right that universities have the freedom and flexibility to decide how to spend their resources in a way that offers the greatest benefit. Universities will be able to focus their outreach and other activities where they will have the most impact, including through partnerships. Last week OFFA announced its decisions on institutions' access agreements for 2012/13. The agreements contain institutions' plans for investment in activities to widen access through programmes such as summer schools, scholarships and fee waivers, estimated to reach more than £600 million annually by 2015.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he considered the merits of restructuring the Aimhigher programme. [66796]

Mr Willetts: Universities and schools have learned a lot from the Aimhigher programme about "what works" in raising the aspirations of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Much of this knowledge is now embedded in the sector. However, while there has been some progress in improving access to higher education, overall this has masked a position where institutions and courses that offer the greatest lifetime benefits to their graduates have failed to reflect the wider social mix of our country.

We needed a new and different approach that builds on existing best practice while developing it further. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on institutions to widen participation and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Last week the Office for Fair Access announced its decisions on institutions' access agreements for 2012/13. The agreements contain institutions' plans for investment in activities to widen access through programmes such as summer schools, scholarships and fee waivers, estimated to reach more than £600 million annually by 2015.

Apprentices

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 June 2001, *Official Report*, column 21WS, on apprenticeships (creation of opportunities), what proportion of apprentices who started their apprenticeship in the 2010-11 academic year were undertaking learning under the Train to Gain scheme in 2009-10. [64176]

Mr Hayes: We do not have information available on the number of apprentices who started their apprenticeship in the 2010/11 academic year who were undertaking learning under the Train to Gain scheme in the 2009/10 academic year.

Since May 2010, the Skills Funding Agency encouraged colleges and providers to switch[1] activity from Train to Gain to support more employers to invest in apprenticeships and support the Government's commitment to an additional 50,000 adult apprenticeships.

Provisional data show that this Government have delivered 326,700 apprenticeship starts in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year—this is 114,000 more than the previous year and more than double our ambition.

[1] In June 2011 (Statistical First Release) there were 327,000 apprenticeship starts and 354,000 Train to Gain starts (between August and April) compared to 212,000 apprenticeship starts and 427,000 Train to Gain starts for the same period in 2010.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were where the Skills Funding Agency's 25 per cent. large employer discount was applied for *(a)* 16 to 18, *(b)* 19 to 24 and *(c)* 25 plus apprenticeships in 2009-10 and the first three quarters of 2010-11. [65750]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts where the Skills Funding Agency's 25% rate reduction for large employers[1] was applied for 19 to 24 and 25+ apprenticeships between August 2010 and April 2011 for the 2010/2011 academic year.

[1] The Apprenticeships 2010/11 Funding Requirements Version 2, published in October 2010, states that from 2010/11 there will be an up-front 25% rate reduction for all 19+ employer responsive provision delivered to and by large employers, that is, those with 1,000 or more employees. The publication can be found at this website:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/ApprenticeshiFunding_Requirements_2010_11-v2_October.pdf

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts for learners aged 19 and over, August to January 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)

	19 to 24	*25+*
Total Apprenticeship starts	102,800	121,000
Of which:		
Apprenticeship starts that qualified for large employer reduction	22,400	36,400

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

The Skills Funding Agency first applied a 25% rate reduction for large employers at the start of the 2010-11 academic year. Data relating to the 25% reduction for large employers are not available for 2009/10. The 25% reduction for large employers applies onlyto 19+ provision, so data relating to 16 to 18-year-old learners are not available.

In addition to the 25% rate reduction for large employers, the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and the Skills Funding Agency will seek to secure further value for money, such as unfunded learners, in their work with the largest national employers.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many learners have started more than one apprenticeship at the same level since April 2009. [65751]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of learners who have started more than one apprenticeship programme at the same level and with the same provider in (i) the 2009/10 academic year and (ii) between August 2010 and April 2011 for the 2010/11 academic year, based on provisional data.

Table 1: Learners starting more than one Apprenticeship programme at the same level within an academic year, 2009/10 and August to April 2010/11 (provisional)

	2009/10	*2010/11 August to April (provisional)*
Number of learners with more than one start	2,040	2,370

Notes:
1. These figures are based on the number of apprentices who start more than one apprenticeship programme with the same provider and within the same academic year only.
2. These figures include those learners who have transferred or completed their apprenticeship programme.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

There were a total of 279,700 apprenticeship programme starts in the 2009/10 academic year. In 2010/11 to date, provisional data show 326,700 programme starts between August 2010 and April 2011.

A learner who starts more than one apprenticeship at the same level is normally only endorsed when an individual is changing their career. The "Apprenticeships 2010/11 Funding Requirements" Version 2, published in October 2010, states that:

> "Funding will only be available for a maximum of one Apprenticeship Framework at any one time. The delivery of more than one Apprenticeship Framework must be done consecutively and not concurrently. This includes Frameworks that are in either the same sectors or not. Where the learner wishes to progress to another Framework, at the same or higher level, then the previous Framework must have either been achieved or the learner has been withdrawn from the Framework."

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships had a planned length of stay that was less than *(a)* 53 weeks, *(b)* 29 weeks, *(c)* 17 weeks and *(d)* 13 weeks in 2009-10 and the first three quarters of 2010-11. [65752]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 July 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts which had a planned length of stay[1] that was less than *(a)* 53 weeks, *(b)* 29 weeks, *(c)* 17 weeks and *(d)* 13 weeks in the 2009/10 academic year and the first three quarters of the 2010/11 academic year (provisional).

[1] Estimates of the planned length of stay are derived from the difference between the apprenticeship programme start date and the planned end date.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by planned course duration for 2009/10 and August 2010 to April 2011[1]

	Apprenticeship starts	
	2009/10	*August to April 2010/11[1]*
13 weeks and under	3,690	3,860
14-17 weeks	3,990	5,960
18-29 weeks	30,660	38,650
30-53 weeks	109,680	144,520
54+ weeks	131,660	133,760
Total	279,700	326,700

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. The start date and planned end date entered on the ILR reflect the length of the apprenticeship programme applicable to an individual learner and is based on a number of factors, including the needs of the employer, which is agreed at the outset with them, the individual apprentice and the training provider.

In issuing apprenticeship frameworks, each issuing authority (typically sector skills councils) will determine the 'normal' length of stay. For many intermediate apprenticeships this is 12 months or 52 weeks, and for advanced programmes it is generally in excess of 12 months.

2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 except for total figures, which are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. Figures for 2010/11 cover August 2010 and April 2011 and are provisional. It is not possible to directly compare provisional 2010/11 estimates against final full year 2009/10 figures.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed apprenticeships in (i) York Central constituency, (ii) the city of York, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) England in each year since 2005. [65842]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in York Central parliamentary constituency, York local education authority, Yorkshire and Humber, and England for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final year data are available.

Apprenticeship starts and achievements in academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

		2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
York Central constituency	Starts	320	380	410	480	530
	Achievements	190	240	210	330	310
York Local Education Authority	Starts	590	690	780	830	950
	Achievements	340	480	390	620	580
Yorkshire and Humber	Starts	22,420	24,140	29,300	32,170	36,530
	Achievements	12,730	15,550	15,380	19,230	22,130
England	Starts	175,000	184,400	224,800	239,900	279,700
	Achievements	98,700	111,800	112,600	143,400	171,500

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 except the England total, which is rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Apprentices: Arts

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to lay regulations before Parliament enabling flexible models for the delivery of advanced and higher-level apprenticeships in the digital and creative industries. [66964]

Mr Hayes: In accordance with the commitment set out in the Department's "Structural Reform Plan[1]", the Department is in the process of finalising draft English apprenticeship alternative completion conditions regulations intended to provide flexibility for the delivery of apprenticeships in specific occupations not only in the digital and creative industries, but in set crafts, maritime occupations and photo imaging, where self-employment and unpaid work are the predominant and accepted modes of employment. These are on track to be completed by the end of July 2011, and we hope to be in a position to lay the draft regulations before Parliament in September.

[1] http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/view-srp/44/94

Apprentices: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have started an apprenticeship in Richmond Park constituency in 2011. [65821]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows a quarterly breakdown of apprenticeship starts in the Richmond Park parliamentary constituency during the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year, from August 2010 to April 2011, based on provisional data.

Figures relating to the calendar year are not available, but quarterly provisional totals for each of the last three quarters are shown for reference.

Apprenticeship starts in Richmond Park constituency by quarter, between 1 August 2010 and 30 April 2011 (provisional)

	Apprenticeship starts in Richmond Constituency
August 2010 to October 2010 (provisional)	40
November 2010 to January 2011 (provisional)	50
February 2011 to April 2011 (provisional)	60
August 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)	150

Notes:

1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Bombardier

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates he has met representatives of Bombardier since his appointment; and whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department plan to meet Bombardier to discuss the future of the company in the UK. [65897]

Mr Prisk: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 1073W.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no meetings with Bombardier Transportation since his appointment but he, like other Ministers, would not have been able to discuss the details of live public rail procurement tenders while they were still being evaluated and awarded. Bombardier has not, since the Thameslink announcement, sought a meeting with any BIS Minister.

However, BIS officials are in regular contact with the company both in setting up the economic response task force and to discuss ongoing support to Bombardier Transportation as it carries out its own internal review of its rail operations in the UK. The BIS Permanent Secretary, Martin Donnelly, is scheduled to meet Colin Walton (Chairman, UK and Ireland Bombardier Transportation Group) on 27 July.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have arranged with Bombardier on their future in the UK. [65972]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* There are currently no scheduled meetings between the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) Ministers and Bombardier. BIS officials and UKTI are in regular contact with the company both in setting up the economic response task force and to discuss ongoing support to Bombardier, as it carries out its own internal review of its operations. Colin Walton is also scheduled to meet the BIS Permanent Secretary, Martin Donnelly, on 27 July.

Business Survey

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the views of those running small and medium-sized businesses. [67056]

Mr Prisk: This Department undertakes regular surveys, including the BIS small business survey, and other research on a range of topics relating to small businesses, details of which can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation

Business Links

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for the integration of Business Link with the AlphaGov programme. [67273]

Mr Prisk: The Government's digital service, led by the Cabinet Office, has launched an Alpha version of a new website on the internet to test the concept of a "single Government domain" with customers and developers. A Beta version of this site is due to be released in July 2011.

While both the Alpha and Beta versions of the Government's digital service are being tested, a plan for the migration of content on the current Business Link website is being drawn up with HM Revenue and Customs which is responsible for managing the BL.Gov programme. There are no fixed dates for this migration exercise to be completed at this stage.

BIS will play a lead role in the migration exercise, ensuring that businesses can continue to access the support they need during this transition period.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65401]

Mr Prisk: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, BIS introduced one regulation that imposed costs to business, the consumer credit directive. The cost is £40 million and the benefit is £180 million, with a net effect benefitting business of some £140 million.

In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, BIS removed three regulations with a net effect benefiting business of some £9.5 million. These are:

amendments to the conduct of employment agencies and employment business regulations—net effect of £7.5 million benefitting business;

the Legislative Reform (Insolvency) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2009—net effect of £7.5 million benefitting business; and

modernisation of insolvency rules—zero cost to business.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the burden of regulation on micro-businesses; [67285]

(2) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on reducing regulatory burdens on small businesses and micro-enterprises. [67256]

Mr Prisk: I have raised these issues with Antonio Tajani, the Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, and with Daniel Calleja Cresepo, the European Commission's SME Envoy. I have also spoken with Members of the European Parliament.

In addition, senior staff engage on an on-going basis with the Commission Secretary-General, her deputy and members of the Barroso cabinet on this matter.

I have spoken with my German and Belgian counterparts and jointly lobbied the Commission with my German, Italian and Polish colleagues on the review of the Small Business Act for Europe.

Business: Rural Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the likely level of business capital to be available in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66367]

Mr Prisk: The Government do not have any evidence that rural businesses have any issues regarding access to finance beyond those identified for businesses generally.

The British Bankers Association (BBA) taskforce has made 17 commitments to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in order to support economic recovery. These commitments cover bank relationships with SME customers, access to finance and promoting understanding.

One of these was a commitment to enhance the cross-industry lending dataset by broadening the statistics available on lending to deprived areas and national and regional data on the provision of bank support to business start-ups. The first set of data is expected in autumn 2011. This information will help us to identify any regions or specific areas where there is a particular issue with accessing finance.

The Government are also committed to supporting microfinance, to support loans to SMEs and start-ups in disadvantaged groups and communities.

Community development finance institutions (CDFIs) lend to enterprises that traditional lenders may consider too costly to serve or too risky (this might be for reasons including absence of a track record or lack of security to offer to the lender), but who have viable business plans and will have a positive impact on the local community. We have given the go-ahead (subject to due diligence) for a new £30 million wholesale fund, funded through the regional growth fund, that will provide resources for CDFIs. This will be the largest fund of its kind for the sector ever.

On a national level, the Government continue to support the enterprise finance guarantee scheme, facilitating lending to viable SMEs that lack sufficient collateral or track record to access bank finance on standard commercial terms. To date, over £1.5 billion of loans have been offered to SMEs through the enterprise finance guarantee, which has been extended to 2014-15, with £700 million available this year.

As a result of talks with the Government, the UK's five major banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011, including new businesses. This includes £76 billion of new lending to SMEs, which is a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the likely number of business *(a)* start-ups and *(b)* closures in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66368]

Mr Prisk: BIS does not produce projections for the number of business start-ups or closures.

Care Homes: Training

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides for workplace training in the residential care home sector. [67101]

Mr Willetts: In the 2011-12 financial year we plan to invest over £3.8 billion for over 3 million adult training places funded through the Skills Funding Agency. This includes the £180 million package announced in the 2011 Budget for an additional 50,000 adult apprenticeship places over this spending review.

From the 2011/12 academic year we have introduced a single adult skills budget. This will provide further education colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities (classroom, workshop, online and in the workplace). As funding is not allocated at the learning aim level, the amount of money spent on qualifications in specific sectors is not reported centrally by the Skills Funding Agency.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64693]

Mr Davey: The number of officials dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from the staff appraisal system within BIS or predecessor Departments is less than five within the last three years. An exact number cannot be given in order to prevent possible identification of individuals.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many staff are employed in his Department's retail unit; how many were employed in May 2010; and what changes in staff numbers in the retail unit are planned over the comprehensive spending review period; [65900]

(2) how many economists are employed in his Department's retail unit; how many such economists were employed in May 2010; and what changes in the number of economists in the retail unit are planned over the comprehensive spending review period. [65901]

Mr Prisk: Four people were employed in my Department's retail team in May 2010, and it now comprises three people. In addition, two more people are helping the team specifically on the Mary Portas review, and the team is able to call on the wider resources of the Department, which includes advice from economists.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66338]

Mr Davey: In June 2009 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was merged with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to create the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

BIS ran a voluntary exit scheme in September-October 2010, at a total cost of £27,169,651. In February 2011 the Department launched a voluntary redundancy scheme that is still ongoing, in respect of which the 2010/11 accounts contained an accrual of £9 million for costs that were incurred in the financial year and, in addition, a provision of £5.9 million against expected future costs.

This information for agencies and non departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regulation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67211]

Mr Prisk: Guidance is produced when users need information to be confident that they can comply with the law. Guidance is compliant with the code of practice on guidance, and is tested with stakeholders so that it is comprehensive and meets user needs.

Figures are not available on the number of officials involved in the production of guidance.

Electric Vehicles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission research into *(a)* the product life cycle of electrical components and *(b)* the environmental sustainability of electric vehicles before deciding on further expenditure on the electric automotive sector. [64156]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

The Government keep their electric and other ultra-low emission vehicle policies under review to ensure that they continue to deliver environmental and green growth benefits, taking account of relevant research.

Government research has estimated that an electric vehicle manufactured in 2010 is around 40% more efficient than a petrol-fuelled equivalent over its life cycle. This figure will automatically improve in line with improvements in the environmental performance of the national grid.

The Technology Strategy Board is currently funding a series of studies on vehicle battery recycling and re-use, which helps to address concerns around sustainability and recovery of raw materials.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the application of the European Union waste electrical and electronic equipment directive 2002/96/EC, as amended by 2003/108/EC; and if he will make a statement. [66978]

Mr Prisk: I met the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 7 December 2010 and discussed the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive. Officials are in regular contact with officials in DEFRA.

The European Commission is seeking to recast the WEEE directive to increase the minimum levels of WEEE collected and the overall levels of that equipment and those products that are treated, recycled or reused.

The UK's priority in the negotiations is to deliver more consistency in implementation across member states, reduce administrative burdens and bring greater clarity for business and other obligated parties.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proposals he has had for the operation of sector-based work academies set out in his Department's structural reform Plan. [66962]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Work and Pensions have engaged with relevant sector bodies to discuss the proposals for the operation of sector-based work academies. This engagement has shaped the model we are now using, which will offer participants up to six weeks of pre-employment training and work experience leading to a guaranteed interview.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation his Department has had with representatives of employers on *(a)* their involvement with and *(b)* the implementation of sector-based work academies. [66963]

Mr Hayes: BIS officials have worked with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to engage employment representative bodies in both the development and implementation of sector-based work academies. This included discussions with employer representative organisations, sector skills councils and national skills academies. In addition, a number of employers were directly involved in a series of consultative events held earlier this year by DWP. Employers in a range of sectors were also involved in the recent test of the approach in the south Yorkshire and Merseyside regions and their input has been used to influence the model that will be implemented in England from August.

English Language: Education

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the average student contribution to course fees for each level of study that will be required for those on inactive benefits to access English for speakers of other language courses in the 2011-12 academic year; [64547]

(2) what the average course cost will be for English for speakers of other language courses at each level of study in the 2011-12 academic year. [64549]

Mr Willetts: As autonomous bodies, further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for their fees policies.

In 2009/10[1] the average full cost of an English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) course for those without full fee remission was £1,057, which covered courses ranging from 9 to 530 guided learning hours. From August 2011, full fee remission will be provided for unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, and this will include ESOL courses where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace, as public funding should not be used to substitute employer investment in this training. We have introduced increased freedoms and flexibilities for FE colleges and providers, providing them with increased flexibility to respond to the needs of their communities.

[1] The last full academic year for which data are available.

Environmental Protection: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to encourage the growth of the green economy in St Albans. [61652]

Mr Prisk: The Government will shortly publish a roadmap to a green economy to provide clarity for businesses across the economy and a platform for growth. It will set out a clear vision for the green economy of the future, the Government's policy framework and the risks, opportunities and challenges for businesses.

At a local level, local enterprise partnerships decide priorities, and this Department will work to help them deliver maximum economic growth across their area in the future. We work closely with industry and trade associations to get the right environment to enable green businesses to flourish and determine how best to enable companies to overcome barriers to business.

Further Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department provides to further education colleges on their governance. [65847]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* Further education colleges are independent organisations, incorporated under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. Through this legislation the Department issues "Instrument and Articles of Government", which sets out a governance framework that each college must adhere to. However, as independent organisations they are themselves responsible for their policies, procedures and governance, so the Department does not provide guidance.

Further Education: Admissions

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the resources and personnel which will be required to enable the Office for Fair Access to maintain the present level of scrutiny of university access agreements; and if he will make a statement. [66492]

Mr Willetts: The Government have committed through the recent White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System' (June 2011) to strengthen the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) so that it can provide more active and energetic challenge and support to universities and colleges. We will want to work with the Director on the size and structure of OFFA but will make significantly more resources available, increasing capacity up to around four times its original level. This would equip OFFA to use its powers fully to monitor and review access agreements and identify and promote best, evidence-based practice.

Further Education: Private Sector

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office for National Statistics on the reclassification of further education colleges as part of the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [64519]

Mr Willetts: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is an independent body which classifies organisations as public or private sector bodies for the purposes of compiling national accounts according to international and EU agreed guidelines. The ONS decisions are based on objective consideration of the facts and it is the final arbiter of classification decisions for the purpose of national accounts. The Department, working with HM Treasury, has presented evidence to the ONS seeking to clarify the nature of the relationship between further education colleges and the Government. This included information about our proposals, as set out in the Education Bill 2011, to reduce the regulatory burden as part of the Government's commitment to free colleges from central control. We await the outcome of the ONS's consideration of this evidence.

Further Education: Public Sector

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether further education colleges are classified as public sector institutions. [66139]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* In October 2010 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced its decision to classify further education colleges as central Government bodies for the purposes of national accounts. The Department, working with HM Treasury, has presented evidence to the ONS seeking to clarify the nature of the relationship between further education colleges and the Government. This included information about our proposals, as set out in the Education Bill 2011, to reduce the regulatory burden as part of the Government's commitment to free colleges from central control. We await the outcome of the ONS's consideration of this evidence.

Green Investment Bank

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the remit of the Green Investment Bank is to include the promotion of green process improvements. [66140]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Green Investment Bank will tackle finance gaps which exist despite a range of strong policies to incentivise green investments. Our May update publication gave examples of sectors which may currently face gaps, including industrial energy efficiency (which could include green manufacturing process improvements).

The intention is to maintain a broad remit for the bank in view of the breadth of opportunities and challenges associated with greening the economy.

In due course, Ministers will set the strategic direction of the bank, ensuring that it becomes an effective instrument of green policy.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what role the Green Investment Bank will have in supporting *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* business start-ups; [66441]

(2) what role the Green Investment Bank will have in supporting recharging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [66442]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will support the deployment of green infrastructure and late- stage technologies. It will tackle finance gaps which exist despite a range of strong policies to incentivise green investments.

Our May update publication identified offshore wind, waste and non-domestic energy efficiency as examples of sectors which may currently face gaps. But the intention is to maintain a broad remit for the bank in view of the breadth of opportunities and challenges associated with greening the economy. As an enduring financial institution, the GIB will need to make investments that are expected to make a positive return.

In due course, Ministers will set the strategic direction of the bank, ensuring that it becomes an effective instrument of green policy.

There is already a broad range of Government interventions to assist SMEs' growth, including the enterprise finance guarantee and enterprise capital funds.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received on the requirement for legislation to establish the Green Investment Bank; [66649]

(2) what assessment he has made of the requirement for legislation to establish the Green Investment Bank; [66650]

(3) what assessment he has made of the requirement to obtain state aid clearance from the European Commission in respect of the Green Investment Bank. [66651]

Mr Prisk: A number of stakeholders expressed a view that legislative underpinning for the bank could send a positive signal about the Government's commitment to create an enduring institution. Following state aid approval, the Government will introduce appropriate legislation confirming the Green Investment Bank's independent status as an enduring institution with a key public role.

Whenever Government bodies make investments, they must comply with state aid rules. The UK's proposals for creating the Green Investment Bank are subject to approval by the European Commission, which must investigate the proposals and reach decisions on whether or not they are compatible with the provisions of the EU treaty as it relates to state aid. In the case of the Green Investment Bank, there may be state aid issues around the institution itself (because it is being capitalised with Government funds) as well as around some of the products it might deploy, which might be viewed as subsidies.

The Government have begun engagement with the European Commission on the Green Investment Bank.

Green Investment Bank: Location

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the timetable is for the decision on the location of the Green Investment Bank; [67263]

(2) what the process is for deciding the location of the Green Investment Bank; [67264]

(3) if he will assess the case for locating the Green Investment Bank in Yorkshire. [67265]

Mr Prisk: The bank's location will be decided after state aid approval has been achieved. It will be chosen to enable the bank best to deliver its mission. Our May update publication provided detail of the criteria by which the decision will be made.

Ministers will consider all submitted business cases for the bank's location. To date, London, Edinburgh and Bristol have each made representations to host the bank.

High Street Review

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what date he expects the Government to respond to the recommendations made by the review on the future of the high street led by Mary Portas; and what form the response will take; [65902]

(2) by what date he expects the independent review of the future of the high street to report. [65906]

Mr Davey: The review remains due in late 2011. It is too soon to indicate when and how the Government will respond. This will be influenced by the nature and number of the review's recommendations.

Higher Education: Funding

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the potential effects of planned changes to higher education funding on the level of *(a)* uptake and *(b)* fees for (i) MSc and (ii) PhD courses. [65848]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The recent HE White Paper noted that the Browne review had raised the possibility that in future, when graduates are contributing more to the costs of their higher education at undergraduate level, they may be less likely to participate in postgraduate study and so recommended that trends in participation should be monitored carefully. Professor Sir Adrian Smith's postgraduate review group reconvened in spring 2011 to advise on this issue.

This group advised that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) be asked to review participation in postgraduate study, following the changes to undergraduate funding, as part of a longer-term assessment and evaluation of the impact of the funding changes. We will also ask HEFCE to consider as part of its review what additional data should be collected about postgraduates. We will revisit the issue of postgraduate funding as the new system beds in.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to require the Higher Education Statistics Agency to collect information on new providers of higher education, including for-profit institutions; and if he will make a statement. [66113]

Mr Willetts: The White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the system" (CM 8122) makes it clear that we expect information requirements to apply to all providers as part of a single, transparent regulatory framework. The information that the Higher Education Statistics Agency is required to collect will depend on the type of degree awarding status or source of public funding a provider wishes to access. Precise information requirements for individual providers are a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England to determine through its regular review of provider agreements.

Proportionate information requirements are essential to ensure accountability to students and the public on quality, access, value for money and financial regularity, but data collection can impose burdens on higher education institutions and we will work with the Higher Education Statistics Agency to reduce the size of data collections through the periodic review process.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on widening participation in the higher education sector. [66633]

Mr Willetts: The Government have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving fair access in higher education. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on institutions to widen participation and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Higher education institutions (HEIs) will deliver a range of outreach activities as part of their access agreements, agreed with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), and their widening participation strategic assessments, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Last week OFFA announced its decisions on institutions' access agreements for 2012/13. The agreements contain institutions' plans for investment in activities to widen access through programmes such as summer schools, scholarships and fee waivers, estimated to reach more than £600 million annually by 2015.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets each higher education institution has agreed with the Office for Fair Access in each year since that office was established. [64511]

Mr Willetts: This is a matter for the Director of Fair Access. The Government made it clear in their guidance letter to the Director that institutions should identify their own measures by which they will judge the success of their investment in access. The Government do not impose targets. They are chosen by individual institutions and agreed with the Office of Fair Access (OFFA).

To date, OFFA has published sector-level summary information on progress on milestones. This information is available in the relevant annual reports describing monitoring outcomes, available at:

www.offa.org.uk

From September 2012, the Director of Fair Access will assess annually the progress made by each institution towards appropriate benchmarks and other measures of widening participation, access and student retention that higher education institutions will have agreed with OFFA through their access agreements. OFFA will require institutions to publish a summary of their progress against their own proposed milestones and targets each year.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the research used by the Office for Fair Access in the formulation of targets for access for individual higher education institutions set out in paragraph 5.22 of the higher education White Paper. [64522]

Mr Willetts: Our recently published higher education White Paper made it clear that measures and targets in access agreements are chosen by the institution and agreed with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

In February, our letter of guidance to the Director of Fair Access set out our expectation that institutions should agree a programme of defined progress each year—set within a five-year timeframe—in relation to appropriate benchmarks. This might include the access and retention benchmarks as calculated by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). In addition, we encouraged the use of measures taking account of the individual context of the institution and using an institution's own data. These expectations have been reflected in the Director's own guidance to the sector.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who started courses of higher education in 2009-10 had AAB-equivalent qualifications. [65203]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* In 2009/10 there were 56,000 UK and EU-domiciled entrants to English higher education institutions who had AAB or above equivalent qualifications. This is the same population used for the 65,000 estimate of the AAB population in 2012/13 quoted in the higher education White Paper.

Source:

2009/10 HESA and ILR data.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology was used to model the impact of the new system of allocating student places set out in the higher education White Paper. [65903]

Mr Willetts: The impact assessment of the proposals in the White Paper can be found on our website. This includes modelling on the policy of allowing unrestrained recruitment of highly qualified students, and the creation of a margin of 20,000 places.

We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult, immediately, on how to implement these approaches and to develop the necessary mechanisms. We have also asked HEFCE to monitor the impact of the approach and its effect on supply and demand and provide advice, as soon as feasible, on how the model is operating in its first year.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of any modelling carried out by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England on models of allocation of student places. [65904]

Mr Willetts: The impact assessment of the proposals in the White Paper can be found on our website. This includes modelling on the policy of allowing unrestrained recruitment of highly qualified students, and the creation of a margin of 20,000 places.

We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult, immediately, on how to implement these approaches and to develop the necessary mechanisms. We have also asked HEFCE to monitor the impact of the approach and its effect on supply and demand and provide advice, as soon as feasible, on how the model is operating in its first year.

HEFCE has published some modelling of institutional impact of AAB proposal as part of its consultation on changes to be implemented in 2012/13. This shows the number of entrants with AAB or above and the number below AAB and can be found via the following link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2011/11_20/

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to inform higher education institutions how many student places are to be withdrawn to create a flexible margin in *(a)* 2013-14, *(b)* 2014-15 and *(c)* 2015-16. [65921]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) generally publishes details of its provisional allocations in March, informed by a grant letter from the Government normally issued in December of the previous year. Final allocations of recurrent funding to institutions are confirmed in July. This information contains details of the recurrent funding received by each institution and numbers of funded places.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of places that would be withdrawn from each higher education institution to create a margin of *(a)* 20,000, *(b)* 40,000 and *(c)* 60,000 places, assuming the most recent distribution of students accepted with AAB or above at A level remains unchanged. [65922]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England's consultation document states that creating a margin of 20,000 students would amount to an average reduction of approximately 8% to the student number control of all institutions with an access agreement with the Office for Fair Access. Reductions of 40,000 and 60,000 would therefore be approximately 16% and 24% respectively.

Higher Education: Finance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer to Lord Willis of Knaresborough of 10 January 2011, *House of Lords Official Report*, column WA394, on higher education: funding, what steps he is taking to encourage private giving to colleges and universities following the closure of the matched funding scheme for voluntary giving. [66381]

Mr Willetts: The matched funding was intended as a time-limited scheme to incentivise universities to improve their fund raising efforts. We are fully funding the £115 million required for the third and final year and expect the total Government contribution of £200 million to have leveraged an additional £400 million in donations to higher education institutions. The 2011 Budget also announced a number of measures that will encourage private giving in the higher education sector, including a 10% cut in inheritance tax for estates leaving at least 10% to charities. This has been warmly welcomed by the sector.

Additionally, higher education institutions' efforts to boost voluntary giving will be supported by a major profile-raising campaign for payroll giving and a philanthropy committee to consider honours for notable philanthropists, both announced in the recent Cabinet Office giving White Paper. We will also explore ways the Government can support existing mechanisms for voluntary giving, including among graduates.

Higher Education: Freedom of Information

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all new providers of higher education are to be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [64050]

Mr Willetts: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that an institution designated as eligible for public funding by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is classed as a public authority and therefore subject to the provisions of the Act. Hence, new providers which are designated as eligible for public funding by HEFCE are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Existing or new providers of higher education which are not designated as eligible for public funding by HEFCE are not subject to the provisions of the Act.

Higher Education: Science

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 276-80W, on higher education: science, how many full-time first degree entrants studying each subject listed in the answer *(a)* there were in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area and *(b)* were in receipt of free school meals in each year since 2002-03. [66657]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the tables. Region and local authority relate to the students' location at the time of application to higher education (HE), rather than the location of the higher education institution.

Comparable information on students who received free school meals is not available. Figures on the number of HE students who previously had free school meals (FSM) is derived by matching the national pupil database with the HESA student record. However, the dataset only tracks a cohort from age 15 to whether they enter HE by age 19. The figures provided in the tables cover students of all ages and so are not comparable with the FSM population which only covers young entrants.

The Department plans to publish information on progression rates to HE by FSM status in an Official Statistics publication on 10 August 2011.

A copy of the tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council for England has distributed for *(a)* teaching and *(b)* research for each full-time equivalent learner to (i) the university of York and (ii) York St John university in each year since 2005. [65741]

Mr Willetts: This information is not held in the form requested. However, it is possible to provide notional figures for the amount of grant distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for teaching and research apportioned by the number of learners (full-time equivalent) in each year. It should be noted that there have been some significant changes in HEFCE's funding methodology over this period, which means that the following table should not be read as a time series. HEFCE funding is one source of income only and the figures provided do not include income from fees. In addition, the data do not take account of other sources of public funding, for example from the NHS or the research councils. Crucially, it should be borne in mind that institutions have a significant degree of freedom in terms of how their grant is distributed internally. It is for that reason that the figures given are notional and should not be read as the actual level of resource attached to any particular learner.

£ per academic year

	York St John university			University of York		
Study level	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*
2004-05	3,522	359	1,458	3,344	1,484	8,515
2005-06	3,695	350	n/a	3,438	1,540	6,210
2006-07	3,897	509	n/a	3,668	1,672	5,149
2007-08	4,075	642	n/a	3,895	1,828	5,854
2008-09	4,078	927	n/a	4,088	1,911	5,806
2009-10	3,699	687	4,808	3,864	728	5,268
2010-11	3,608	371	4,366	3,768	718	4,922

Key:
UG—Undergraduate
PGT—Postgraduate taught
PGR—Postgraduate research.

Notes:
UG/PGT
'Funds' for UG and PGT are standard resource minus assumed fees, plus widening access and improving retention funding.
'FTEs' are Home and EU HEFCE-funded, excluding non-completions.
Funding for non-mainstream FTEs has been excluded.
PGR
Figures include proportionately small amounts of transitional funding for PGR students.
For the years in which the mainstream QR quality threshold differed from the PGR supervision fund threshold, the student numbers in this analysis include the larger of the eligible student totals.
In the early years some notional teaching grant is included in the funding amounts.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65362]

Mr Davey: The inter-departmental ministerial group (IDMG) on human trafficking—which this Department is not represented on—co-ordinates work on trafficking across Government. The group brings together Ministers from key Departments to provide oversight and to strengthen our efforts to tackle human trafficking by ensuring that input and expertise from all Departments is shared.

The IDMG last met on 17 February 2011. The group will meet every six months, with a meeting of officials in-between. The next meeting of the group will be held in the autumn.

The Government will shortly be publishing their strategy on human trafficking. The strategy will reiterate the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking, both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims. It will also mark a greater focus on combating the organised crime groups behind this crime.

The Government's approach will be based on four key principles:

improved victim care arrangements;

enhancing our ability to act early, before the harm has reached the UK;

smarter, multi-agency action at the border; and

a more co-ordinated policing effort at home.

Insolvency

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on HM Revenue and Customs' role as a repeat unsecured creditor in insolvency cases; and if he will make a statement. [66192]

Mr Davey: I have not had any discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this issue.

BIS officials have held discussions with their counterparts in HM Revenue and Customs with a view to exploring ways in which that Department can use its role as a large repeat creditor in corporate insolvencies to influence the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners. Those discussions are ongoing.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average cost to insolvent estates of fee review complaints arising from reforms to the regulation of insolvency practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [66193]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners. Whether to add a fee review mechanism formed a significant part of that consultation. The potential impact of any such mechanism on insolvent estates is being considered as part of the review process.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to ensure that any fee review in insolvency cases arising from reform of the regulation of insolvency practitioners will limit losses to the insolvent estate; and if he will make a statement. [66194]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners. Whether to add a fee review mechanism formed a significant part of that consultation, and the question raises an important issue that is being considered as part of the review process.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had with the chairs of local enterprise partnerships in Yorkshire and the Humber. [67286]

Mr Prisk: Over the last three months there have been no meetings between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the chairs of the local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) in Yorkshire and the Humber.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is visiting the Humber on 20 July 2011 and will meet with John Clugston, the interim chair of the Humber LEP, as part of that visit.

During my visit to Leeds and York on the 28 April 2011 I met with both Neil McLean, the Leeds City Region LEP chair and Barry Dodd, the York and North Yorkshire LEP chair. I also met with James Newman, Sheffield City Region LEP chair, when he attended the partnerships launch event on 12 May 2011.

Manufacturing Industries: Training

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to the train manufacturing sector in the UK. [65973]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* Further to the launch of the economic response task force, which will look at understanding and mitigating the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier and it's supply chain, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Transport, have asked their officials to work together with the sector and key delivery partners, such as UKTI, to support the train manufacturing sector and the wider rail supply chain in securing more sustainable UK jobs through clearly identified business opportunities.

New Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase entrepreneurial activity among *(a)* black, Asian and minority ethnic people, *(b)* service leavers and *(c)* women. [65898]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

Service leavers

The Government have provided endowment funding totalling £5 million for the 'Be the Boss' initiative to provide recent ex-service personnel with funding, training and mentoring support to help them start to grow a business. 'Be the Boss' is delivered by the Royal British Legion and experienced partners across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:

http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/can-we-help/help-with-starting-a-business

Ethnic minority groups and women

The evidence with regard to entrepreneurial activity among black, Asian and other minority ethnic people is complex. Many minority ethnic groups are more enterprising than white ethnic groups, and for other ethnic groups the barriers to enterprise are imperfectly understood. We know, for example, that young black males have a higher rate of start-up than white ethnic groups, but a much bigger gap between levels of ambition to start an enterprise and actual start-up.

The evidence with regard to women and enterprise is also complex. While it remains the case that significantly fewer businesses are majority-led by women than by men (with only one in seven of all small and medium-sized business employers being women-led), and that rates of enterprise ambition are lower among women than among men (in 2009, 2.9% of women not already engaged in enterprise said they intended to start up in business in the next three years, compared with 6.1% of men), start-up data indicate that in the recent past women have often been starting up in business at a faster rate than men.

Postal Services

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has received any representations about the quality of the postal service in the City of Chester constituency. [66679]

Mr Davey: This Department has not received any representations about the quality of the postal service in the City of Chester constituency.

Quality of service is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many student places on *(a)* taught Masters' courses, *(b)* other Masters' studies, *(c)* PhD studies and *(d)* other doctoral studies received funding from the (i) Arts and Humanities Research Council, (ii) Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, (iii) Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, (iv) Economic and Social Research Council, (v) Medical Research Council, (vi) Natural Environment Research Council and (vii) Science and Technology Facilities Council in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures in each of the next three years. [66114]

Mr Willetts: The following tables show the available data for the research councils, with explanatory notes. These abbreviations are used:

AHRC is the Arts and Humanities Research Council

BBSRC is the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

EPSRC is the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

ESRC is the Economic and Social Research Council

MRC is the Medical Research Council

NERC is the Natural Environment Research Council

STFC is the Science and Technology Facilities Council

In each of the last three years:

	(a) Taught Masters			*(b) Other Masters*			*(c) PhD*			*(d) Other doctoral studies*		
	2008/09	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
AHRC	—	—	—	496	585	607	587	745	729	—	—	—
BBSRC	—	—	—	110	111	110	503	539	555	—	—	—
EPSRC	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,579	2,788	2,902	—	—	—
ESRC	—	—	—	6	6	6	686	719	730	—	—	—
MRC[1]	—	—	—	69	63	—	307	276	—	55	51	—
NERC	—	—	—	285	285	285	316	334	325	—	—	—
STFC	—	—	—	—	—	—	258	240	225	—	—	—

Estimates of the equivalent figures for each of the next three years:

	(a) Taught Masters			*(b) Other Masters*			*(c) PhD*			*(d) Other doctoral studies*		
	2011/12	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*
AHRC	—	—	—	490	480	480	730	720	720	—	—	—
BBSRC	—	—	—	110	110	0	530	400	420	—	—	—
EPSRC	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,900	1,900	1,800	—	—	—
ESRC	—	—	—	6	6	6	660	660	660	—	—	—
MRC[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NERC	—	—	—	—	—	—	330	330	330	—	—	—

	(a) Taught Masters			*(b) Other Masters*			*(c) PhD*			*(d) Other doctoral studies*		
	2011/12	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*
STFC	—	—	—	—	—	—	230	230	230	—	—	—

[1] *Notes on MRC data:*

1. The data presented for (b) other Masters exclude any studentships where a Masters has been funded as part of doctoral study.
2. The data presented under (c) other doctoral training were clinically trained students funded as Clinical Research Training Fellows.
3. All of the data presented above exclude studentships at MRC funded Centres. In 2008/09 there were a total of 226 students undergoing doctoral training in MRC -funded centres. This figure includes existing and new students. The MRC does not have data available for any other years.
4. Data for 2010/11 are not yet available.
5. The number of studentship places funded by the MRC is subject to annual review, hence there are no figures given in the second table. At present MRC has no plans to significantly increase or decrease funding for PhD or Research Masters Studentships.

Note on BBSRC data:

All Masters students are included in "Other Masters". Separate figures are not available for Taught and Research Masters. PhD studentship numbers for the last three years are estimates from data based on returns provided by awarded institutions.

Note on EPSRC data:

EPSRC supports Masters level training only when it alligns with its broader strategy. For this reason, in 2009 it decided to focus most of its support in this area on activities which employ Masters-level training as a means of developing highly skilled doctoral—level researchers, rather than those which view the provision of Masters graduates as an end in itself. As a result, their current support for Maste-s level training is delivered via the Centres for Doctoral Training, Doctoral Training Accounts and some courses in Mathematical Sciences (e.g. Statistics). Not all of these routes provide students with a formal Masters qualification, so it would be difficult to be definitive about numbers over a specific period.

Note on ESRC data:

ESRC funds a mix of 3 year PhD and 1 year + 3 years Masters + PhD awards. The total amount of these awards is included under section (c) PhD for the previous and next three years. ESRC is unable to disaggregate these figures further in the time available without use of disproportionate resources. However it estimates that 60% of the awards are of the 1+3 type. Under section (b) Other Masters, it has included a strategic initiative where we fund standalone Masters to build research capacity in Demography.

Note on NERC data:

NERC does not differentiate between MSc and MRes, so all places listed as other masters.

Notes:

1. The year presented relates to an academic year i.e. 2008/09 relates to students starting in October 2008.
2. The data do not take in to account any funds leveraged by HEIs to increase the total number of studentship places available.
3. Figures for the next three years are estimates and hence the actual numbers may vary from those given above. If universities choose to support part-time students and fees-only students, and/or match research council funding with that from other sources, then more students will be able to be supported; PhD students may also be supported by larger research grants from some councils.

Research: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on future funding for research capital in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [67112]

Mr Willetts: Following proposals made by the research councils, an extra £100 million of science capital was announced in the 2011 Budget. This will help drive innovation and growth and reflects our commitment to cutting-edge research. The projects announced were as follows:

£26 million to develop the Norwich research park;

£44 million to develop the Babraham research campus;

£10 million to develop the national science and innovation Campus at Daresbury;

£10 million for three further instruments at the ISIS neutron source in Harwell; and

£10 million to start a national space technology programme.

Science Capital Development Fund

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects are to be funded from his science capital development fund; and where each such project is to be located. [66767]

Mr Willetts: The following capital projects were identified by the research councils as their highest scientific priorities and currently receive funding from the BIS large facilities capital fund (LFCF):

Project	*Location*
Institute for Animal Health redevelopment	Pirbright, Surrey
Laboratory of Molecular Biology	Cambridge
Diamond Light Source Phase III	Harwell, Oxfordshire
Chipir facility at ISIS neutron source	Harwell, Oxfordshire
HECToR supercomputer	Edinburgh
Replacement for RRS Discovery	Southampton
Birth Cohort Facility	Swindon
European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information (ELIXIR)	Cambridge

Note:

LFCF funding earmarked, subject to approval of the business case.

Spaceflight

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with European organisations on plans for manned space flight and exploration. [66659]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Winchester (Mr Brine) on Thursday 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 454-55.

Students: Finance

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on conservatoires of his proposals for core and marginal funding of student places. [66692]

Mr Willetts: The Government see an important role for small and specialist institutions like conservatoires. In our December 2010 grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), we asked the council to treat such institutions as a priority in allocating its teaching grant. We repeated that message in our recent White Paper and the letter we wrote to the council on its publication. In that letter, we also asked the council to consult on how best to implement our proposals to free up student number controls in order to allow student choice to drive competition, quality and efficiency across the sector. Those proposals have two elements: the unrestrained recruitment of high-achieving students, scoring the equivalent of AAB+ or above at A level; and the creation of a flexible margin of about 20,000 places.

Early indications are that some conservatoires may be able to recruit additional students scoring the equivalent of AAB+ or above at A level. It is for the council to take decisions on the details of the mechanisms used to implement this approach.

Students: Loans

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of medical students who take out commercial loans during their studies. [66449]

Mr Willetts: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007/08, published in April 2009, is a comprehensive study of student income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. It showed that 61% of English-domiciled, full-time undergraduate medical or dental students[1] (across all years of study) expected to have borrowings from commercial sources, including commercial credit and overdrafts, by the end of the academic year.

[1] Base sample = 170 respondents.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 269W, on the Technology Strategy Board: finance, when he expects to announce the final budget of the Technology Strategy Board for 2012-13 and 2013-14. [67360]

Mr Willetts: We plan to notify the Technology Strategy Board of its allocation for 2012-13 and 2013-14 in March 2012 and March 2013 respectively.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessments were carried out when awarding the bid to build Thameslink trains on the impact of *(a)* loss of revenues to supply chain companies to bidders and *(b)* potential loss of jobs at those supply chain companies. [65974]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]*: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) today (UIN 63731).

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 July 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr Leigh: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission when the House of Commons Commission will respond to the First Report of the Administration Committee, Session 2010-12, on Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons, HC 560; and if he will make a statement. [67391]

John Thurso: The Commission welcomes the Administration Committee's report on Catering and Retail Services in the House of Commons and is grateful to the Committee for its work. The Commission agrees with most of the recommendations, including all those which the Management Board has recommended be accepted. It has asked that the remainder be discussed with the Committee by officials of the House Service, after which the Commission will consider them again. That is expected to be in September.

Smartphone Applications

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 824W, on smartphone applications, what recent progress has been made in the development of smartphone applications for Parliament. [67110]

John Thurso: The development of a smartphone application, designed primarily for those visiting Parliament, has been halted. The quotes received from the procurement exercise were too expensive and it has been decided not to continue at this stage. Further work will be undertaken in due course to explore a more cost-effective method of providing visitor information via smartphones.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in Scotland were designated as a *(a)* supplying establishment, *(b)* breeding establishment and *(c)* scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at the end of 2010. [67046]

Lynne Featherstone: As at 31 December 2010, there were 32 establishments in Scotland designated as scientific procedure establishments under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Of these, 13 were also designated as breeding establishments and 19 as supplying establishments.

Animal Welfare: Protest

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of threat from extremist animal rights protesters. [65442]

James Brokenshire: The police continually monitor the level of threat from all extremist groups, including animal rights extremists.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) her Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66521]

Damian Green: The Home Department does not have a mandatory policy on requirements for the provision of apprenticeships or other training by either its prime contractors or suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy in 2010-11 79 of our top tier suppliers completed a questionnaire which included a section on apprenticeships. The responses received showed that 47% of the respondents helped to develop the skill set of local communities by providing apprenticeships within the supplier organisation.

In 2011-12 the Home Department will request that all suppliers with a spend of more than £5,000 respond to the questionnaire. This will provide us with a greater overview of apprenticeships in the Home Department's supply chain.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with her Department in each of the last three years. [66523]

Damian Green: As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy in 2010-11, 79 of our top tier suppliers completed a questionnaire which included a section on apprenticeships. The responses received showed that 47% of the respondents helped to develop the skill set of local communities by providing apprenticeships within the supplier organisation. This has resulted in 298 apprenticeships created within the Home Department's supply chain.

We do not hold centralised information on apprenticeships created directly by Home Department contracts for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Asylum Seekers: Medical Treatment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Lord Roberts of Llandudno of 14 February 2011, *Official Report, House of* Lords, column 500, on asylum seekers: medical treatment and the answer to the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 651W, on asylum: sexuality, if she will make it her policy to issue guidance to the UK Border Agency instructing it immediately prior to removing a failed asylum seeker to assess whether the claim for asylum was made on the grounds of sexuality and rejected, by reference to the issue of discretion addressed by the Supreme Court in HJ (Iran) and HT (Cameroon) [2010] UKSC 31; and if she will direct the agency to review each such case where consideration has not yet been given to the Supreme Court's judgment. [66501]

Damian Green: Immediately following the HJ and HT judgment the agency initiated a review of all cases which had not yet exhausted their appeal rights. The agency does not, however, routinely review cases which have exhausted their appeal rights and does not plan to do so. The agency provides clear guidance on its website to individuals who have exhausted their appeal rights on how to bring forward further submissions if new circumstances apply since the original asylum decision and appeal determination were made.

Asylum: Sexuality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were made on the basis of sexual orientation or sexual identity in each of the last six quarters. [66498]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect data on the basis of asylum claims; however, following the HJ and HT Supreme Court ruling in July 2010, arrangements were made to record data manually, but the resulting figures were initially not robust. Improved manual data were subsequently collected for the period April to June 2011 inclusive, as part of an internal audit of sexual orientation claims. Since 1 July, cases involving sexual orientation have been recorded on the agency's electronic case information database and this will provide a better basis for published data.

Data on claims based on sexual identity are not recorded.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to remove sexuality asylum cases from the Detained Fast Track category; and if she will make a statement. [66500]

Damian Green: Entry to the detained fast track procedure is determined by reference to published policy. There are no plans to exclude applicants from the detained fast track process solely because their asylum claim is sexuality-related. However, published policy already stipulates that cases may enter and remain in the process only if they are amenable to a quick, fair and sustainable decision. If at the time of application it is apparent that this condition cannot be fulfilled in a sexuality-related persecution claim, or indeed in a claim with any other basis, the applicant will not be entered into the process.

Crime

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* sexual assault, *(c)* rape, *(d)* grievous bodily harm, *(e)* robbery, *(f)* violent disorder, *(g)* possession of a controlled substance, *(h)* intent to supply a controlled substance and *(i)* vehicle theft were recorded in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in each of the last three years. [65837]

James Brokenshire: Data for the Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency are not collected centrally. The constituency falls within the combined community safety partnership (CSP) areas of Blackpool and Wyre. The available statistics for these combined CSPs are given in the following table.

Offences recorded by the police in the combined community safety partnership areas of Blackpool and Wyre

	Number of offences		
Offence	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Burglary	2,454	2,309	2,245
Sexual assault on a female	105	126	110
Sexual assault on a male	12	12	28
Rape of a female	52	70	100
Rape of a male	6	3	8
Inflicting GBH with intent	252	170	240
Inflicting GBH without intent	104	82	104
Robbery	177	171	175
Violent disorder	1	3	1
Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)	324	436	440
Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)	330	364	401
Trafficking in controlled drugs	308	123	124
Theft of a motor vehicle	515	386	345
Theft from a vehicle	1,270	965	909

Crime: Nature Conservation

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to establishing measures against *(a)* smuggling of and *(b)* illegal trade in wildlife as priorities for the National Crime Agency. [67118]

Lynne Featherstone: The National Crime Agency (NCA) Plan sets out the Government's plan for the prioritisation of law enforcement activity against serious and organised criminality.

Crime: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes were reported in York in each of the last four years; [65599]

(2) how many offences were recorded within the Safer York Partnership area in each year since 2004. [65598]

James Brokenshire: York and the York Community Safety Partnership area are coterminous. The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in the area and is given in the table.

Offences recorded by the police in York

Financial year	*Number*
2004-05	23,080
2005-06	22,784
2006-07	20,935
2007-08	18,901
2008-09	17,886
2009-10	14,480
2010-11	15,199

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* crime related to vehicles, *(b)* burglary of a dwelling, *(c)* other burglary, *(d)* criminal damage, *(e)* theft, *(f)* violence and *(g)* other crimes were committed in York in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [65600]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Offences recorded by the police in York

		Number
Offence	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Offences against vehicles[1]	1,276	1,254
Burglary in a dwelling	691	753
Other burglary	1,115	1,327
Criminal damage	2,790	2,477
Other theft offences[2]	4,774	5,229
Violence against the person	2,415	2,499
Other crimes	1,419	1,660
Total crime	14,480	15,199

[1] Aggravated vehicle taking, theft of and from a vehicle and vehicle interference.

[2] Excluding offences against vehicles.

Crime: Young People

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the contribution of social media to gang culture and related youth violence; and if she will make a statement. [66696]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: There has been no formal assessment of the contribution of social media to serious youth violence.

It is possible for the courts to prohibit use of the internet to facilitate or encourage gang-related violence by adults using an injunction under the Policing and Crime Act 2009. This is where such a response is deemed proportionate and can be effectively monitored.

Gang injunctions for 14 to 17-year-olds will be piloted later this year.

Special Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in her Department in the last 12 months. [62070]

Damian Green: Over the last 12 months the Department's special advisers claimed a total of £510 in expenses. This compares with £1118 in 2007-08, £1041 in 2008-09 and £717 in 2009-10 claimed by special advisers under the last administration. The Department has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from her Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66753]

Damian Green: The Department's published carbon footprints for 2009-10 of 48,601 tCO_2 and 2010-11 of 42,155 tCO_2 are based upon energy consumption of all measurable buildings and employee rail, car and air travel while on official duty.

Carbon dioxide emissions from our buildings are falling against the 2009-10 baseline, due to investment in energy saving infrastructure and tighter controls. This has helped us to achieve a reduction of 17.6% as part of the Prime Minister's target to cut carbon emissions from key central Government offices by 10% in the 12 months to 13 May 2011.

Carbon dioxide emissions from travel have also fallen as we have rationalised our vehicle fleet and introduced measures to restrict business travel in favour of alternatives such as telephone and video-conferencing.

Departmental Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual value is of her Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66522]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2010-11, the Home Department, inclusive of executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), spent £2.9 billion with over 3,500 suppliers. Details of contracts categorised by sector are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many managers at Grade 7 and above her Department employed to cover the work of junior immigration grades involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 June 2011; and whether she has made an estimate of the cost of employing such staff to provide this cover. [66117]

Damian Green: 356 managers at Grade 7 and above were used to cover the work of junior immigration grades in the industrial action on 29 and 30 June 2011. These staff were already employed by the Home Department so there was no additional salary cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of her Department were re-deployed to cover the work of staff involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 June 2011; and what the cost was of *(a)* overtime payments including travel time, *(b)* time off in lieu of overtime, *(c)* travel, accommodation and subsistence costs and *(d)* bonus and other payments for this purpose. [66118]

Damian Green: During the industrial action on 29 and 30 June 2011, a total of 394 employees from a variety of grades were re-assigned to manage the UK Border Agency's (UKBA) strategic priorities of maintaining border security and managing the vulnerable in our care. The total cost associated with this centrally co-ordinated critical incident planning exercise are not yet available but the accounting process has identified, as at 12 July 2011, a total of £8,398 in related expenditure.

In Home Office HQ, the Identity and Passport Service, the Criminal Records Bureau and in areas of UKBA, on work not covered by the centrally co-ordinated re-deployment exercise, managers made local arrangements where necessary to ensure that the essential work of the Department continued. Details of these local arrangements are not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff were based at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Gatwick, *(c)* London Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester, *(f)* Leeds, *(g)* Bristol, *(h)* Edinburgh, *(i)* Glasgow, *(j)* Belfast and *(k)* Cardiff airport in each of the last five years. [65997]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 July 2011]*: Due to border security considerations the UK Border Agency does not report on staff numbers at individual Ports, but does however report on staff numbers on a regional basis.

Full-time equivalent staff at 31 March each year

	Border and Immigration Agency			*United Kingdom Border Agency (now including HMRC)*	
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
South region including Gatwick, Bristol and Heathrow	2,626	2,347	2,298	3,150	3,021
Central region including Stansted, Birmingham, Cardiff	493	477	505	720	738
North region including Manchester, Edinburgh, Leeds, Glasgow, Belfast	1,419	1,426	1,390	1,733	1,654

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) her Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which she is responsible since May 2010. [66327]

Damian Green: The following table has been compiled using Office for National Statistics guidelines for work force management reporting.

There has been an external recruitment freeze in place across the civil service since 24 May 2010. The only exceptions to the recruitment freeze are for the graduate fast stream, and truly exceptional business-critical and frontline appointments. External recruitment is only allowed once every effort has been made to fill a role internally, from staff in the redeployment pool, or from elsewhere in the civil service. The recruitment freeze and targeted voluntary exit schemes helped reduce the headcount (paid civil servants) of the Home Office and its Executive agencies from 31,459 on 1 June 2010 to 28,162 on 30 June 2011. The largest proportion of the 3,297 reduction has been achieved through voluntary exit schemes.

The changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) in December 2010 oblige Departments first to offer voluntary redundancy to any staff identified as being at risk of redundancy, who are in re-deployment, and who have not been able to secure an alternative post. This must take place prior to the Department being allowed to consider whether to issue notice of compulsory redundancy.

Table 1: Staff who have been (a) recruited or (b) made redundant since May 2010

Headcount

		(a) Staff who have been recruited since May 2010	*(b) Staff who have been made redundant since May 2010*
(i) Department	Home Office and the Executive agencies	[1]603	0
(ii) Non-departmental bodies	Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)	[2]0-5	0
	Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC)	53	26
	Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)	33	0
	National Policing Improvements Agency (NPIA)	108	9
	Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)	[2]0-5	0
	Security Industry Authority (SIA)	18	0
	Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	7	0

[1] This includes 373 existing civil servants who transferred from other Government departments to the Home Office during the period in question (101 of these transferred in when the Government Equalities Office (GEO) became part of the Home Office in May 2011).

[2] The number of individuals identified within this category falls between 0 and 5 and has been redacted in accordance with the Data protection principles to avoid inadvertent identification of particular individuals.

Notes:

1. All figures are paid civil servants as to comply with Office for National Statistics definitions.
2. All figures are inclusive of 1 June 2010 to 30 June 2011.

Sources:

For the Home Office return the data was obtained by Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data.

Individual NDPB returns were manually collated

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [66810]

Damian Green: The cost of press officers employed between May 2010 and June 2011 was £1,727,459. The Home Office do not employ media officers.

Departmental Official Visits

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times she has visited *(a)* Buckinghamshire, *(b)* Surrey, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Dorset in an official capacity since May 2010. [65934]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has visited Surrey on three occasions and Dorset on one occasion. No visits by the Secretary of State for the Home Department have taken place to Liverpool or Buckinghamshire.

Departmental Publicity

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* photographs of Ministers, *(b)* videos of Ministers and *(c)* other similar products since 12 May 2010. [67806]

Lynne Featherstone: Since 12 May 2010, the Home Office staff communications team has spent £1,000 on official photographs of Ministers.

There has been no spend on videos of Ministers or on other similar products.

Departmental Redundancy

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on redundancy costs since 12 May 2010. [67723]

Damian Green: Since 12 May 2010, no members of staff have been made compulsorily redundant and therefore no costs have been incurred.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many regulations her Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65321]

(2) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses her Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65338]

(3) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses her Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65355]

Damian Green: The following tables give information about the regulatory measures introduced/revoked since March 2010, including details of (i) the costs (if any) on businesses and (ii) exclusions from the one-in, one-out system. Statistics about the net effect of the cost to businesses from the introduction and revocation of these regulations are not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost in time and resources.

Regulations made

Title	*No.*	*Date made*	*Imposed costs on business? (Yes or No)*	*Excluded from the one-in, one-out system because it addressed (1) emergencies and (2) systemic financial risks? (Yes or No)*
The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/616	4 March 2010	No	No
The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/647	6 March 2010	No	No
The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/648	6 March 2010	No	No
The Crime and Disorder (Prescribed Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/656	8 March 2010	No	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2010	2010/778	10 March 2010	Yes	No
The UK Border Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2010	2010/782	15 March 2010	No	No
The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/784	15 March 2010	No	No
The British Nationality (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/785	15 March 2010	No impact assessment prepared	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/817	16 March 2010	No impact assessment prepared	No
The Identification and Traceability of Explosives Regulations 2010	2010/1004	25 March 2010	Yes	No

Regulations made

Title	*No.*	*Date made*	*Imposed costs on business? (Yes or No)*	*Excluded from the one-in, one-out system because it addressed (1) emergencies and (2) systemic financial risks? (Yes or No)*
The Police Authority and Metropolitan Police Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/1070	29 March 2010	Negligible	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Jersey) Regulations 2010	2010/1087	29 March 2010	No impact assessment available.	No
The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010	2010/1144	31 March 2010	Negligible	No
The Identity Cards Act 2006 (Provision of Information with Consent) Regulations 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/1180	1 April 2010	No	No
The Parental Orders (Prescribed Particulars and Forms of Entry) Regulations 2010	2010/1205	6 April 2010	No	No
The Firearms (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/1759	6 July 2010	Negligible	No
The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No. 2) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010	2010/1799	13 July 2010	Negligible	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2226	7 September 2010	Yes	No
The Police Pensions (Additional Voluntary Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2235	7 September 2010	Negligible	No
The Police Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2412	30 September 2010	No	No
The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 2010	2010/2497	12 October 2010	Yes	No
The Controlled Drugs (Drug Precursors) (Intra-Community Trade and Community External Trade) Regulations 2010	2010/2564	19 October 2010	Yes	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2700	8 November 2010	No	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Jersey) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2701	8 November 2010	No	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2702	8 November 2010	No	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2807	21 November 2010	Yes	No
The Police Authority (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2826	24 November 2010	No	No
The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and permitted temporary activities) (Forms and notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2851	29 November 2010	No	No
The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/2958	13 December 2010	Negligible	No
The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010	2010/3018	20 December 2010	No	No
The Police Authority (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2010	2010/3030	21 December 2010	No	No
The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/230	4 February 2011	No	No
The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011	2011/300	9 February 2011	Yes	No
The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2011	2011/448	18 February 2011	Negligible	No
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Revocation, Savings and Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2011	2011/544	24 February 2011	Negligible	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Jersey) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/717	10 March 2011	Yes	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/718	10 March 2011	Yes	No
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/719	10 March 2011	Yes	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2011	2011/790	14 March 2011	Yes	No
The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/907	23 March 2011	No	No

Regulations made

Title	*No.*	*Date made*	*Imposed costs on business? (Yes or No)*	*Excluded from the one-in, one-out system because it addressed (1) emergencies and (2) systemic financial risks? (Yes or No)*
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2011	2011/1055	1 April 2011	Yes	No
The Civil Partnership (Registration Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1171	26 April 2011	No	No
The Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1172	26 April 2011	No	No
The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1230	9 May 2011	No	No
The Immigration (European Economic Area) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1247	9 May 2011	No	No
The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Monetary Penalty Notices and Consents for Interceptions) Regulations 2011	2011/1340	26 May 2011	No	No
The Gender Recognition Register (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1607	29 June 2011	No	No

Regulations revoked

Title	*No.*	*Date revoked*	*Imposed costs on business? (Yes or No)*	*Excluded from the one-in, one-out system because it addressed (1) emergencies and (2) systemic financial risks? (Yes or No)*
The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 1986	1986/416	15 November 2010	Yes	No
Forms of Entry for The Parental Orders Regulations 1994	1994/2981	30 April 2010	No	No
The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2003	2003/611	15 November 2010	Yes	No
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004	2004/1219	1 May 2011	No	No
Regulation 3 The Gender Recognition Register Regulations 2005	2005/912	20 July 2011	No	No
The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2006	2006/428	14 January 2011	Yes	No
Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5 The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006	2006/1003	1 May 2011	No	No
Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006	2006/3317	1 May 2011	No	No
Regulation 3 The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	2007/475	1 May 2011	No	No
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	2007/928	1 May 2011	No	No
Regulation 2 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2007	2007/2504	14 January 2011	No	No
Regulation 3 The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	2007/3012	1 May 2011	No	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2009	2009/816	10 March 2010	Yes	No
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	2009/892	1 May 2011	Negligible	No
The Asylum Support (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009	2009/1388	12 April 2010	No	No
The UK Border Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2009	2009/2133	7 April 2010	No	No
Regulation 3 of the Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	2009/2426	1 May 2011	No	No
The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2006 (Amendment) Regulations 2009	2009/2964	14 January 2011	No	No
Regulation 3 of the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2009	2009/3136	28 March 2011	Yes	No

Regulations revoked

Title	*No.*	*Date revoked*	*Imposed costs on business? (Yes or No)*	*Excluded from the one-in, one-out system because it addressed (1) emergencies and (2) systemic financial risks? (Yes or No)*
The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2010	2010/228	6 April 2011	Yes	No
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2010	2010/778	21 November 2010	Yes	No
The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/784	23 March 2010	Yes	No
Paragraph (a) of regulation 3 of the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010	2010/1144	28 March 2011	Negligible	No
Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2226	6 April 2011	Yes	No
Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	2010/2807	6 April 2011	Yes	No

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67581]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 273-74W.

Deportation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes prior to setting removal directions to ensure that the removal is not inconsistent with any change in *(a)* law, *(b)* policy and *(c)* any court or tribunal decision arising (i) after the decision that a person is to be removed and (ii) after any appeal against such a decision to remove has been finally decided. [66499]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency staff are provided with comprehensive guidance on the information to be considered and assessed when making a decision to remove individuals from the UK. Each case will be considered on its individual merits, which will include any extenuating compassionate circumstances, together with any recent changes to law, policy, or court or tribunal decisions.

The procedures to be followed and the factors to be considered when setting removal directions can be found in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/

Separately UK Border Agency Staff are notified as and when important policy changes or court or tribunal decisions might impact on a decision to remove.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which unit of her Department is responsible for *(a)* accompanying, *(b)* monitoring and *(c)* reporting on the treatment of those to be removed from the UK during each stage of the removal process. [67114]

Damian Green: The Government expect that those with no right to stay in the UK leave voluntarily. Many do so but for those who fail to leave we have to enforce their departure. Our arrangements for doing so can extend to individuals being escorted on to an aircraft or, for a smaller number, overseas. The UK Border Agency's Criminality and Detention Group is responsible for arranging the escort of individuals who are detained prior to removal from the UK and for monitoring and reporting on their treatment immediately prior to and during removal.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure her Department follows to accredit private security escorts responsible for enforced removals; and whether an assessment of the training in the use of handcuffs and other mechanical restraints is a mandatory element of the accreditation process. [67115]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has used private sector escorting companies to undertake enforced removals for nearly 20 years. These companies operate within a clear framework set out in legislation and in a set of operating standards and instructions which are published on the Agency's website.

Individuals employed to work as detention custody officers (DCOs) must be certified before they can undertake duties on behalf of the UK Border Agency. The process, which includes gaining security clearance and completing mandatory control and restraint training, is set out in Detention Service Order 04-2011, entitled Detainee Custody Officer Certification, available on the UK Border Agency website:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/detention-services-orders/

All DCOs are trained in control and restraint techniques accredited by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and receive refresher training every 12 months as a mandatory condition of their individual certification to work as a DCO. The control and restraint training includes the use of two types of handcuffs and a leg restraint which takes the form of a velcro strap. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) also provides UKBA contracted escorting staff with additional training in the use of rigid bar handcuffs.

Detection Rates: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate was for North Yorkshire Police Force in each year since 2005-06. [65601]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Detection rates for crimes recorded in North Yorkshire

Financial year	*Detection rate (%)*
2005-06	35
2006-07	33
2007-08	33
2008-09	31
2009-10	31
2010-11	31

Domestic Violence

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which police forces have trained staff in the domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and honour-based violence risk identification and assessment and management model; [66783]

(2) whether she has any plans to ensure that the domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and honour-based violence risk identification and assessment and management model is used by all police forces in England and Wales; [66784]

(3) how many police forces use the domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and honour-based violence risk identification, assessment and management model; and how many cases of homicide there were where there was *(a)* prior stalking and *(b)* harassment behaviour by a former partner, in each such police force area. [66733]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Council accredited the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009. Although we understand that the majority of forces currently use DASH it is for individual forces to decide which risk assessment models to use and the training their officers and staff receive.

Entry Clearances

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure consistency in decision-making in respect of the admittance to the UK of *(a)* Rael Salah and *(b)* Pastor John Hagee. [65392]

Damian Green: The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has the power to exclude or deport individuals whose conduct she considers non-conducive to the public good.

Entry Clearances: Entertainers

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications to enter the UK with an entertainment visa under Paragraph 46S of requirements for leave to enter have been *(a)* received and *(b)* refused since 2005; [67023]

(2) how applications to enter the UK with an entertainment visa under Paragraph 46S of requirements for leave to enter are assessed in respect of *(a)* family ties to the home country and *(b)* earnings threshold in pounds sterling equivalent. [67024]

Damian Green: The amendment of the Immigration Rules to include provision for leave to enter as an Entertainer Visitor (Paragraph 46S) came into effect on 27 November 2008. The number of visa applications in this category that were *(a)* received; and *(b)* refused, to 31 December 2010 were 9,075 and 1,999, respectively.

All non-EEA nationals seeking leave to enter as a visitor, including as an Entertainer Visitor, must show, amongst other things, that they:

(a) intend to come to the UK for a limited period not exceeding six months;

(b) will either (i) be able to adequately maintain and accommodate themselves, or (ii) be adequately maintained and accommodated, during their stay without recourse to public funds; and

(c) will be able to meet the cost of their return or onward journey.

The onus is on the applicant to provide evidence to show that these and the other requirements for entry are met.

All visa applications are assessed on their individual merits. It is standard practice to take into consideration an applicant's personal and family circumstances overseas when assessing their intentions. There is no earnings threshold which Entertainer or other categories of visitor must meet but they will be expected to show that they or their sponsors have sufficient funds for the trip.

Entry Clearances: Higher Education

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given in determining her policy on visas to the introduction of exemptions from visa requirements for those undertaking research and development work at a university. [66848]

Damian Green: There are no exemptions from visa requirements for those undertaking particular types of work under tier 2 of the points-based system. However, those undertaking work in an occupation requiring PhD-level skills are given high priority when allocating places in the annual limit for tier 2. There is additional provision for sponsored researchers in tier 5 of the points-based system and the new tier 1 (exceptional talent) route will be a further alternative for world leaders in their field.

Identity Cards: Finance

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of her Department's budget was allocated to the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* management of identity cards. [65729]

Damian Green: Between 2003 and March 2006, the Home Office spent a total of £41 million developing the policy, legislation and business case for ID cards which represents approximately 0.1% of the Home Office Budget for that period.

The ID Cards Project joined the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on its establishment in April 2006 and IPS spent a total of £251 million on set-up costs between April 2006 and March 2010, approximately 0.5% of the Home Office Budget for that period.

Approximately £8 million was spent on delivering ID cards from their launch in October 2009 until the decommissioning of the National Identity Scheme (NIS), representing less than 0.1% of the Home Office Budget for that period.

Illegal Immigrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants have failed to attend an immigration reporting centre after being arrested at the border and requested to do so on the following day. [64302]

Damian Green: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Immigrants: Detainees

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time an individual awaiting an upper tribunal hearing was kept in detention in the latest period for which figures are available. [65264]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Case Information Database indicates that for detained subjects, between the months of March 2010 and February 2011, the average length of time between an application for permission to appeal and the Upper Tribunal hearing outcome was 32.65 weeks. The figures are provisional and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply to our National Statistics.

Marriage

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future arrangements for the certificate of approval for marriages. [67109]

Damian Green: The Government abolished the Certificate of Approval scheme on 9 May 2011. We have no plans to reintroduce the scheme which was ineffective in tackling sham marriage and which the courts had ruled incompatible with the European convention on human rights. The family migration consultation launched on 13 July proposes new measures aimed at tackling sham marriages and other abuse, promoting integration and reducing burdens on the taxpayer.

Metropolitan Police: Firearms

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Metropolitan police officers are qualified in the use of firearms. [67307]

James Brokenshire: The latest available figures for 2009-10 show that there were 2,856 authorised firearms officers in the Metropolitan police force.

National Security Adviser

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had with the National Security Adviser in *(a)* January, *(b)* March and *(c)* June 2011. [67356]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department meets the National Security Adviser on a regular basis as part of the National Security Council briefing committees. For security reasons what was discussed cannot be disclosed.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role and responsibilities she has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution she has made to its work. [67416]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is a member of the National Security Council (NSC) which meets regularly to ensure prompt, coherent, co-ordinated and informed decision making on all strategic defence and security issues.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) sets out those areas for which the Home Secretary is accountable to the NSC: Counter-Terrorism, Border Security and Serious Organised Crime.

National Wildlife Crime Unit

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether all the responsibilities of the National Wildlife Crime Unit are to be incorporated into the National Crime Agency. [67119]

Lynne Featherstone: The National Crime Agency (NCA) plan sets out the Government's plan for the scope and functionality of the NCA. The planning and implementation phase has now begun and will include detailed consideration of the functions of the new agency.

Organised Crime

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to address the activities of organised gangs engaged in benefit and other frauds. [65152]

James Brokenshire: As part of the work to strengthen the response to organised crime, the key law enforcement agencies—the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), UK Border Agency and the police—are pooling their intelligence on organised criminal groups. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, run by the City of London police, is also a key contributor. A good example of joint working against organised criminal groups engaged in fraud is the work of the Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) where HMRC, SOCA, the Northern Ireland Department of Justice and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, have been active in tackling organised criminal gangs involved in fuels duty fraud. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has specialist fraud investigation teams which focus specifically on identifying and disrupting organised fraud attacks on the benefits system. Investigations are undertaken in partnership with other agencies such as local authorities, the police and HMRC. There is also a specialist Financial Investigation Unit, which carries out financial investigations to track proceeds of crime and seeks to recover assets where benefit fraud has been committed against DWP. In the last financial year, DWP teams prosecuted 1,076 cases of organised fraud and identified criminal assets totalling £8.74 million of which around £3.5 million was recovered by confiscation orders.

Passport Agency: ICT

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the original estimate, at current prices, was for the cost to the public purse of the Siemens IT system for the Passport Agency; what the final cost, at current prices, was at the time of completion; and whether additional costs have been incurred since completion. [65627]

Damian Green: At the time of contract award, the anticipated contract value was between £80 to £100 million over a 10-year period. The contract duration extended to 11 years at a total cost of approximately £365 million.

The increase in costs over the term of the Siemens contract can be attributed to numerous factors including additional demand for passports, enhancements of the IT infrastructure and business processes to accommodate changes in policy, response to changes in security threats and customer service improvements.

Police

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made on the impact of deploying officers on single police patrol on levels of *(a)* violent knife crime, *(b)* anti-social behaviour and *(c)* gun crime. [66176]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The deployment of officers patrolling on their own, rather than in pairs, maximises visibility and increases engagement with the public, by potentially doubling the policing visibility within a given neighbourhood. However, the deployment patterns of police officers are a matter for individual chief constables, working with their police authorities. No assessment has been made by the Home Office of the effects of single police patrol on the level of crime or antisocial behaviour.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of single police patrols on levels of *(a)* knife crime, *(b)* gun crime and *(c)* anti-social behaviour. [64969]

James Brokenshire: The deployment of officers patrolling on their own, rather than in pairs, maximises visibility and increases engagement with the public, by potentially doubling the policing visibility within a given neighbourhood. However, the deployment patterns of police officers are a matter for individual chief constables, working with their police authorities. No assessment has been made by the Home Office of the effects of single police patrol on the level of crime or antisocial behaviour.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to carrying out value for money profiles of police forces to measure the amount of uniformed officer time spent on each type of activity. [66824]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* HM Inspectorate of Constabulary has published value for money profiles on its website:

www.hmic.gov.uk

which include breakdowns of the police workforce by function. In addition, in its report "Demanding Times" (March 2011), HM Inspectorate of Constabulary identified the different police roles and quantified each category. That report also included the results of surveys of the availability and visibility of warranted police officers and police community support officers in England and Wales. More detailed measurement of the time spent by officers on each type of activity that they undertake would create a disproportionate bureaucratic burden on the police service.

Police Cautions

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police cautions were issued in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cheshire and *(c)* City of Chester constituency in each year since 1997; [66282]

(2) how many police cautions were issued for assault in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cheshire and *(c)* City of Chester constituency in each year since 1997; [66283]

(3) how many police cautions were issued for burglary in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cheshire and *(c)* City of Chester constituency in each year since 1997. [66285]

James Brokenshire: Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by parliamentary constituency.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the numbers of offenders cautioned for all offences, burglary and assault in England and Wales and Cheshire police force area from 1997 to 2010 can be viewed in the following tables.

Offenders cautioned[1,2] for all offences, burglary and assault[3] in England and Wales and Cheshire police force area, 1997 to 2010

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Cheshire							
Total cautions	4,048	4,587	3,592	3,111	2,780	2,085	3,051

Offenders cautioned[1,2] for all offences, burglary and assault[3] in England and Wales and Cheshire police force area, 1997 to 2010

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Of which:							
Burglary	27	41	30	31	32	9	27
Assault	136	134	145	129	166	191	304
England and Wales							
Total cautions	282,093	287,894	266,132	238,987	229,860	225,358	241,806
Of which:							
Burglary	3,339	3,122	2,697	2,177	2,044	1,909	1,954
Assault	9,110	13,158	16,993	17,210	18,155	17,294	19,786

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Cheshire							
Total cautions	3,268	4,572	5,318	4,812	4,799	3,574	3,803
Of which:							
Burglary	18	27	76	38	41	27	36
Assault	379	844	1,524	1,275	1,161	845	824
England and Wales							
Total cautions	255,768	298,945	349,977	362,895	327,892	290,645	242,831
Of which:							
Burglary	2,057	2,375	2,881	2,524	2,056	1,742	1,413
Assault	26,148	40,818	64,649	72,575	69,536	64,238	54,254

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 10 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Includes: Assault on a constable and common assault offences.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Police Cautions: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cautions were issued for *(a)* drug offences, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* assaults and *(d)* vehicle crime in London in each of the last five years. [67373]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of cautions issued in the Metropolitan police force area (including the City of London) for drugs offences, burglary, assaults and vehicle crime, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of cautions issued for drugs offences, burglary, assaults[1] and vehicle crime[2] in the Metropolitan police force area 2006-10[3, 4, 5]

Metropolitan police force area[6]	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Drugs offences	7,621	8,284	8,730	7,461	7,018
Burglary	979	877	610	398	232
Assault[1]	11,484	14,444	15,200	13,821	12,300
Vehicle crime[2]	506	519	374	228	170

[1] Includes offences of assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH), malicious wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) and summary offences of assault on a constable and common assault.

[2] Includes notifiable offences of;
aggravated taking of a vehicle:
stealing from vehicles;
stealing and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles;
interference with motor vehicles.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[6] Includes City of London police force area.

Source:

Justice Statistical Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Police: Bureaucracy

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time police officers spent on *(a)* crime incident-specific activities, *(b)* non-crime incident-specific activities and *(c)* activities not related to specific incidents in each of the last five years. [66812]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is given in the table for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. For later years, the information is not available as collection of data on police activity has been discontinued to reduce the bureaucratic burden on the police.

Table 1: Percentage of police time spent on crime-related incidents, non-crime related incidents and non-incident specific activity, 2006-07 and 2007-08

	Percentage of total police officer time	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Crime Related Incidents	33.1	32.6
Non-crime Related Incidents	16.0	15.6
Non-incident specific	50.9	51.7

Notes:
1. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding errors.
2. The information is taken from activity analysis, which was collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.
3. 2007-08 excludes Staffordshire.

Police: Length of Service

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers of each rank in each police authority area will have completed 30 years service on 1 April 2012; and if she will make a statement. [67333]

James Brokenshire: Based on the latest available information of police officers in post with 28 years or more length of service as at 31 March 2010, and assuming none of these would have left post in the meantime, the following table gives the number of officers that would have completed 30 years or more length of service on 1 April 2012, by police force area and rank.

The number of police officers which have 28 years or more length of service as at 31 March 2010, by police force area and rank[1] [2]

	ACPO	*Chief Superintendent*	*Superintendent*	*Chief Inspector*	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	1	2	7	8	35	34	83	170
Bedfordshire	2	0	3	2	9	16	40	72
Cambridgeshire	1	3	1	5	7	11	50	78
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	1	2	2	4	17	28	81	135
Cumbria	0	1	2	3	11	17	42	76
Derbyshire	2	3	6	5	20	26	80	142
Devon and Cornwall	1	4	7	5	31	36	83	167
Dorset	2	3	2	3	9	6	27	52
Durham	1	3	5	3	18	21	46	97
Dyfed-Powys	1	3	0	5	8	4	38	59
Essex	1	2	7	5	24	34	98	171
Gloucestershire	1	2	1	2	7	10	35	58
Greater Manchester	2	5	7	17	54	87	232	404
Gwent	1	2	2	6	9	15	27	62
Hampshire	2	2	11	6	32	46	97	196
Hertfordshire	3	4	4	4	16	24	61	116
Humberside	1	4	5	4	15	35	63	127
Kent	4	3	7	7	19	25	112	177
Lancashire	2	1	3	6	32	39	112	195
Leicestershire	2	1	1	6	18	24	52	104
Lincolnshire	1	0	0	1	13	10	42	67
London, City of	2	1	3	4	11	9	39	69
Merseyside	2	4	6	11	39	70	177	309
Metropolitan Police	15	39	87	121	421	836	1,426	2,945
Norfolk	1	1	1	1	8	13	24	49
Northamptonshire	2	2	2	5	8	10	39	68
Northumbria	2	5	3	8	24	34	71	147
North Wales	0	2	2	0	4	13	39	60
North Yorkshire	0	0	1	1	9	15	23	49
Nottinghamshire	2	3	4	12	30	36	108	195
South Wales	1	5	2	9	24	28	96	165
South Yorkshire	1	3	7	5	24	34	89	163
Staffordshire	1	1	5	3	20	24	79	133
Suffolk	2	2	3	0	15	8	24	54
Surrey	0	2	3	3	17	30	58	113
Sussex	1	5	3	5	19	28	57	118

The number of police officers which have 28 years or more length of service as at 31 March 2010, by police force area and rank[1] [2]

	ACPO	Chief Superintendent	Superintendent	Chief Inspector	Inspector	Sergeant	Constable	Total
Thames Valley	2	4	7	7	35	60	139	254
Warwickshire	1	1	5	1	3	11	38	60
West Mercia	4	3	6	5	31	33	124	206
West Midlands	0	10	13	5	65	104	337	534
West Yorkshire	3	9	14	18	48	85	315	492
Wiltshire	1	4	3	4	13	19	62	106
Total	75	156	263	335	1,272	2,048	4,865	9,014

[1] Figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.

[2] Cheshire is unable to provide length of service figures.

Police: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Macpherson report, what steps she plans to take to ensure that uniformed police personnel in each police authority area reflect the communities they serve; and if she will make a statement. [67347]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Recruitment and deployment decisions are the responsibility of police forces locally. From May 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners will hold chief constables to account for the steps that they take to ensure that uniformed police personnel reflect the communities they serve.

Police: Pay

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy in her negotiations with the Police Federation on police pay and conditions to be bound by decisions of the arbitration process. [62712]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* No. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), will consider the recommendations of the police negotiating machinery very carefully before making any decisions on police pay and conditions of service in line with her statutory responsibilities.

Police: Recruitment

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made any changes to future arrangements for the recruitment and training of police officers as a consequence of her discussions with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers, *(b)* police authorities and *(c)* police representative bodies; and if she will make a statement. [67348]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* No decisions have been made in respect of future arrangements for police recruitment and training.

Police: Surveillance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to ensure that the disclosure process in protester trials where an undercover officer was involved is investigated thoroughly; [66715]

(2) if she will request that the independent inquiry into the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station cases examines *(a)* the role played by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) in the disclosure of evidence and *(b)* any discussions between the NPOIU and the Crown Prosecution Service on the production of evidence to the courts; [66714]

(3) if she will meet campaigners directly affected by undercover policing; [66713]

(4) if she will make a statement to the House following the conclusion of the inquiry into the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station cases. [66785]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* There are a number of reviews that have been commissioned to address concerns that have come out of the Mark Kennedy case. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is carrying-out an independent investigation into disclosure issues relating to the case. The DPP has also commissioned a separate review of the CPS decisions in this case. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is undertaking a review of the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in accordance with the law, including consideration of the proportionality of covert tactics in terms of their impact on protest activity. The full Terms of Reference can be found on the HMIC website. HMIC has met with campaigners with an interest in the issues covered by the Review.

The Government have given a commitment to ensure that the findings of the Review will be published by HMIC and will consider the conclusions from the findings before taking a decision on whether a statement to the House is appropriate.

Police: Training

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that people who join the police service as special constables or police community support officers with the intention of becoming fully warranted police officers do not leave before they complete their training; and if she will make a statement; [67328]

(2) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of recruitment and retention of special constables and police community support officers in each police authority area in ensuring that they complete their training; and if she will make a statement. [67329]

James Brokenshire: Special constables and police community support officers (PCSOs) are integral parts of the policing family and the Government are very supportive of the roles that they perform.

Recruitment, retention and training decisions regarding special constables and PCSOs are the responsibility of chief constables and their police authorities.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of people entering training to become fully warranted police officers in each policy authority area; and if she will make a statement. [67330]

James Brokenshire: The number of police officers recruited in each force is for chief constables and their police authorities to determine.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken for special constables or police community support officers to complete their training to qualify as a warranted uniformed officer in each police authority area; and if she will make a statement. [67331]

James Brokenshire: The length of time expected for completion of the initial policing learning programme, including the diploma in policing, is two years. This is the time usually expected for completion by a student police officer recruited as a warranted officer and paid as such throughout the training period, the completion of which is marked by a pay increment.

A special constable may complete the full initial learning programme and the length of time which this will take will depend on local arrangements, the number of hours the individual is able to volunteer, and their rate of progress. The Metropolitan police are making arrangements for special constables to complete training and will be best placed to provide the detailed information concerning special constables in the Metropolitan police area.

A police community support officer (PCSO) is not able to complete the full training as a regular police constable because PCSOs do not have police powers and cannot be assessed using the necessary powers. A PCSO may complete the pre-join knowledge course and may achieve competence in four of the ten assessed modules which form part of the diploma. The length of time that this requires varies but is often completed within 12 months. If the PCSO goes on to be recruited as a regular officer and completes training, this should not require more than 12 months to complete. A PCSO may also be a special constable but the time for completion again depends on their availability for the work based assessment using police powers, and on progress.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures she plans to put in place to maintain public protection during deployment of police personnel who undertake public duties before they have completed their training; and if she will make a statement. [67332]

James Brokenshire: Arrangements for the deployment of police personnel for the protection of the public are a matter for individual chief constables, who are responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and policy to protect the public at all times.

All student police officers and all special constables, are deployed under "accompanied patrol" until such time as they are assessed as competent for "independent patrol". Accompanied patrol means that the trainee will be on duty with a fully qualified regular police officer. The criteria for independent patrol are set by the Association of Chief Constables-led Central Authority for Initial Learning, and the National Policing Improvement Agency is the executive arm of the Central Authority.

The criteria are that the individual must be assessed as competent to:

provide initial support to victims and witnesses;

provide an initial response to incidents;

arrest, detain and report individuals;

searching individuals in a policing context;

search vehicles, premises and open spaces; and

manage conflict in a policing context.

In addition, most police forces apply a local check list called the Police Action Check List, which provides assurance to local supervisors of the level of experience gained under accompanied patrol Initial Policing Learning Programme, including the diploma in policing is a vocational work-based approach to training, closely supervised throughout. This is a deliberate choice to provide maximum assurance of operational competence, particularly with reference to the protection of the public. Officers are not qualified until such time as they are formally assessed as competent.

Protection of Freedoms Bill

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to develop statutory guidance under the Protection of Freedoms Bill to facilitate the implementation of changes across jurisdictions and sectors. [66977]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: The Protection of Freedoms Bill includes a number of provisions which place a duty or confer a power on specified persons to prepare statutory guidance or codes of practice. The relevant provisions are as follows:

clause 22—duty on the Secretary of State to give guidance on the making or renewing of a determination that fingerprints or DNA profiles may be retained for the purposes of national security;

clause 24—duty on the National DNA Database Strategy Board to issue guidance about the destruction of DNA samples and DNA profiles retained under part 5 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984;

clause 29—duty on the Secretary of State to prepare a code of practice containing guidance about surveillance camera systems;

clause 47—duty on the Secretary of State to prepare a code of practice containing guidance about the exercise of powers of entry and associated powers (schedule 3 confers a power on the Welsh Ministers to prepare a code of practice in respect devolved powers of entry in Wales); and

clause 61—duty on the Secretary of State to prepare a code of practice containing guidance about the exercise of stop and search powers under sections 43, 43A and 43B of the Terrorism Act 2000.

In addition, we are considering whether guidance to regulated activity providers and personnel suppliers in relation to the revised disclosure and barring regime (as provided for in part 5 of the Bill) should be placed on a statutory footing; we will announce our conclusions in advance of the Bill's Report stage. As part of such consideration we are consulting the Northern Ireland Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Public Order

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance her Department issues to police forces on offences under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986; and if she will make a statement; [60541]

(2) whether she has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986; and if she will make a statement. [60542]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has supported the Association of Chief Police Officers in updating the legal section of the police's Manual of Guidance "Keeping the Peace" to ensure that it contains material on section 5 which properly reflects freedom of expression concerns.

While the Government currently have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, the Government are committed to engaging with key partners across the criminal justice system, community groups and civil liberties groups to assess the benefits of removing 'insulting' from section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986.

Southern Cross: Vetting

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely number of Criminal Records Bureau checks to be required in respect of former Southern Cross employees who transfer to a new operator; and what plans she has to ensure this process is completed as soon as possible. [67468]

Lynne Featherstone: The decision to obtain new Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for former Southern Cross employees would be one for any new operator or other regulatory body to make. If certificates are required, the CRB will process all applications within its Published Service Standards (PSS), which are to complete 90% of enhanced checks within 28 days and 95% of standard checks within 10 days. The CRB has been exceeding its PSS consistently since December 2010. In June the bureau issued over 96% of enhanced certificates within the target of 28 days.

Terrorism

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question *(a)* 59743, *(b)* 59744, *(c)* 59745, *(d)* 59746 and *(e)* 59753, on the Prevent Strategy, tabled on 9 June 2011 for answer on 13 June. [62501]

James Brokenshire: I refer the right hon. Member to my answers of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1216-17W.

Theft: Metal

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on *(a)* the number of metal thefts and *(b)* monetary value of stolen metal from church buildings in (i) Wyre Forest and (ii) Worcestershire in the last 12 months. [66246]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is responsible for the police recorded crime statistics. Offences of theft of metal would be recorded under the Home Office offence classification of 'Other theft or unauthorised taking'. As such, theft of metal offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within this classification. Information on the value of goods stolen is not collected centrally in the police recorded crime statistics.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she *(a)* has implemented and *(b)* plans to implement any of the recommendations of the Working Party of the Church Building Council on Metal Theft. [66248]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 July 2011]*: The Home Office recently met officials from the Church Building Council to discuss their report. A number of its recommendations are in line with Government policy and already form part of the work plan being delivered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft Working Group and its partners. More generally, the Government are considering what more can be done to reduce the theft of metal.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of changing data protection guidance for UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents; [66996]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of changing data protection guidance for UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are sponsors for visa applications for friends or family overseas; [66997]

(3) how many versions of data protection guidance have been issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are sponsors for visa applications for friends or family overseas in the last five years; [66998]

(4) how many versions of data protection guidance have been issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents in the last five years; [66999]

(5) when data protection guidance was issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents in the last five years; [67000]

(6) when data protection guidance was issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are sponsors for visa applications for friends or family overseas in the last five years; [67001]

(7) when the most recent data protection guidance was issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are sponsors for visa applications for friends or family overseas; [67002]

(8) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the most recent data protection guidance was issued to UK Border Agency staff on hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents; [67003]

(9) what guidance has been issued to UK Border Agency staff on data protection requirements for hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents; [67004]

(10) what guidance has been issued to UK Border Agency staff on data protection requirements for hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are sponsors for visa applications for friends or family overseas. [67005]

Damian Green: The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the processing of personal data. Personal data means data that relate to a living individual regardless of their nationality, immigration status or where they are located in the world. The agency's guidance is applicable to both in-country applications, overseas applications and to those who are in detention.

The current guidance was put in place in 2003 and has been updated as and when necessary since then, according to inquiries from colleagues across the agency which have necessitated clarification. Amendments were also made in 2005 as a result of the Freedom of Information Act making reference to that Act and its provisions.

The information management team recently produced an information fact sheet for Members of Parliament acting on behalf of their constituents in response to feedback from Members of Parliament. The fact sheet, which was sent to all Members on 14 July 2011, was produced to clarify our current guidance. The fact sheet sets out how we will approach requests for information from MPs in a number of common scenarios.

The agency's guidance is publicly accessible via the UK Border Agency website—it is contained within chapter 24 'Disclosure of Information' via the 'Policy and Law pages' ('Immigration Directorate Instructions'). This guidance is currently being rewritten to give agency staff a clearer steer on data protection and disclosing information and also highlight the particular role and work of Members of Parliament when representing constituents.

We do not hold records for the number of versions there have been since 2003, although there have not been major alterations to it since its inception.

There has been no additional cost to the public purse, over and above the day-to-day operational costs of the UK Border Agency's information management team who oversee Data Protection Policy guidance. The team updates guidance as part of their role and responds to inquiries on data protection policy from colleagues across the agency on a day-to-day basis (including the agency's MPs' Liaison Unit).

UK Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications to the UK Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme have been refused since the establishment of the scheme. [66453]

Damian Green: The Worker Registration Scheme was established in May 2004 and ended on 30 April 2011. The number of refused applications is provided in the following table.

WRS applications refused between 1 May 2004 and 30 June 2011[1]

Case outcome	*Year refused*	*WRS first application*	*WRS renewal application*	*Total*
Refused	2004 (May-December)	1,183	78	1,261
	2005	1,682	188	1,870
	2006	1,382	419	1,801
	2007	1,055	511	1,566
	2008	1,765	919	2,684
	2009	1,324	926	2,250
	2010	752	715	1,467
	2011 (January-June)	163	285	448
	Total	9,306	4,041	13,347

[1] While the scheme ended on 30 April at that point a number of valid applications were on hold awaiting further information from the applicant or their employer, so processing continued after the closure of the scheme until all applications had been cleared. This work extended into early June.

Note:

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Violent and Sex Offender Register, (1) if she will name those registered sex offenders who do not have a recorded address or have no fixed abode on the Violent Sex Offender Register (ViSOR); and if she will give details of the last known whereabouts of those registered sex offenders who do not have a recorded address or have no fixed abode on ViSOR; [62765]

(2) what steps she is taking to identify the locations of the persons who do not have an address recorded or have no fixed abode; and what steps she plans to take regarding those people whose location or address is not known. [62766]

Lynne Featherstone: Under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, where a registered sex offender has no sole or main residence, they are required to notify the police of the address or location of a place where they can regularly be found and remain under active police management.

Where an individual breaches their notification requirements all inquiries will be made to locate them via checks with other agencies who may have information and intelligence on their whereabouts. Details will be circulated on ViSOR and via the Police National Computer (PNC). Any public disclosure of details relating to sex offenders who are missing will be considered by the police on a case by case basis and would be made in accordance with obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Home Office is currently consulting on proposals which would require registered sex offenders to notify weekly where they are recorded as having 'no fixed abode':

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/notification-sex-offenders/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what timetable has been set for the classification of marine special protection areas under the EU Birds Directive for birds at sea for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England; and what assessment she has made of progress towards meeting the Government's objective of completing an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas by 2012; [64218]

(2) whether marine conservation zones will be designated for mobile species including seabirds, cetaceans and basking sharks; under what conditions such designations may be made; and if she will make a statement; [64219]

(3) what the timetable is for classifying maintenance extensions for breeding seabird special protection areas under Joint Nature Conservation Committee guidance; [64220]

(4) how many terrestrial special protection areas (SPAs) are classified for breeding seabirds; and whether SPA protection has been extended to the marine foraging areas in respect of each area. [64221]

Richard Benyon: All naturally occurring wild birds, including seabirds, are protected by the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007. This legislation transposes the EC Wild Birds Directive and, in particular, prohibits the deliberate killing or taking of wild birds and provides for the classification of special protection areas (SPAs) for birds in both English and UK waters.

To date, 107 SPAs with marine components have been classified. Of these, three are wholly marine (Carmarthen Bay SPA, Liverpool Bay SPA, and the Outer Thames SPA). Of the 97 SPAs established for breeding seabird colonies, 31 have been extended into the marine environment by up to 4 km. Under the 2010 Habitats Regulations, any plans or projects that are likely to have a significant effect upon one or more of these SPAs are subject to appropriate assessment by competent authorities, including where those activities occur outside the SPA.

SPAs, together with Special Areas of Conservation (designated under the Habitats Directive) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), will be the main elements of our contribution to the ecologically coherent network. Marine Special Area of Conservation designation should be completed by the end of 2012, and we are aiming to complete further work on the identification of additional seabird colony extensions and other seabird SPAs by the end of 2015. In January 2012 recommendations for MCZs, formal advice from the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and the associated impact assessments will be sent to Ministers. We will give this careful consideration, before making a decision on sites to take forward to public consultation in early summer 2012, and designation by end 2012.

Dairy Farming

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of dairy farms in each of the last 10 years. [67302]

Mr Paice: The number of dairy farms in England from 2000 to 2010 is shown in the following table. The source of cattle population data changed in 2006 from the June Survey to the administrative Cattle Tracing System (CTS) data so the 2006 data are shown on both bases for comparison.

Also shown is UK milk production and milk yields to put the figures into context. The long term trends in dairy production is towards fewer, larger and more productive herds. So while the number of dairy farms has decreased significantly over the past decade, the level of (UK) milk production has fallen only by 4%.

Number of dairy farms

	Number[1]	Number[2]	UK milk production (million litres)[3]	Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)
2000	—	15,219	14,071	5,979
2001	—	14,293	14,284	6,346
2002	—	14,537	14,440	6,493
2003	—	13,770	14,576	6,621
2004	—	13,264	14,127	6,763
2005	—	12,918	14,052	6,986
2006	11,522	11,079	13,902	6,977
2007	10,907	—	13,619	6,913
2008	10,331	—	13,319	6,943
2009	9,805	—	13,197	7,068
2010	9,461	—	13,533	7,301

[1] Sourced from Cattle Tracing System. Defined as the number of holdings with more than 10 dairy cows over two years old in the milking herd (i.e. with offspring).

[2] Sourced from June Survey. Defined as the number of holdings with dairy as the predominant farming activity.

[3] Source DEFRA and RPA statistics.

Dairy Products

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of consumption of *(a)* milk and *(b)* other dairy products in each of the last 10 years. [67129]

Mr Paice: The volume of drinking milk, cheese and butter produced in the UK and the volume of milk available for consumption is shown in the following table:

UK production and availability of liquid milk and dairy products

	Liquid milk (million litres)		Butter (thousand tonnes)		Cheese (thousand tonnes)	
	Production	Available for consumption	Production	Available for consumption	Production	Available for consumption
2001	6,748	6,775	126	200	395	601
2002	6,825	6,806	136	209	371	574

UK production and availability of liquid milk and dairy products

	Liquid milk (million litres)		*Butter (thousand tonnes)*		*Cheese (thousand tonnes)*	
	Production	*Available for consumption*	*Production*	*Available for consumption*	*Production*	*Available for consumption*
2003	6,753	6,507	131	207	351	577
2004	6,693	6.497	122	208	359	600
2005	6,652	6.214	130	219	391	648
2006	6,734	6,307	117	226	400	673
2007	6,724	6,388	120	195	378	684
2008	6,678	6,355	111	169	387	720
2009	6,626	6,255	118	183	359	673
2010[1]	6,835	6,484	119	199	374	697

[1] Provisional

Source: DEFRA, HMRC

Note:

The 2010 data are provisional and will be updated at 9:30am on 30 September 2011. Data for 2011 will be published at 9.30am on 23 March 2012.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-food-milk-milkutil-milksupplies-110624.xls

The UK is a net exporter of liquid milk, hence more milk is produced than is available for consumption. For milk products this is reversed with the UK being a net importer of, for example, speciality cheese imports, butter from Eire/Denmark/New Zealand.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66591]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) implemented a change to its Invitation to Tender processes in 2009 in response to the Office of Government Commerce publication of guidance on promoting skills through public procurement.

Our standard Invitation to Tender document encourages suppliers to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities in their workforce for DFID contracts where it is appropriate to do so, and that they should encourage their sub-contractors to offer such opportunities as appropriate.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66593]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) encourages all of its prime contractors to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities in delivering their workforce for DFID contracts where it is appropriate to do so, and that they should encourage their sub-contractors to offer such opportunities as appropriate.

DFID does not currently hold management information from suppliers on this matter, and to engage with all prime contractors to gather the information would require a manual exercise and incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66592]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold live contract information in a way which allows us to split this information into sectors and down to individual annual payment values.

To carry out this request manually from multiple data sources would incur disproportionate costs.

Third Sector

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67548]

Mr Duncan: DFID publishes information on ministerial meetings with external organisations and overseas visits on our website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/#travel

Information for the first quarter of 2011 will be added shortly. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WALES

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) whether her Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) her Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors; [66624]

(2) how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with her Department in each of the last three years. [66626]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office makes use of centralised contracts supplied to the Ministry of Justice and staff are subject to Ministry of Justice policies. A post within the Department has been ear-marked for the creation of an apprenticeship this year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many meetings she has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67155]

(2) if she will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* she and *(b)* officials of her Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67178]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is not readily available and to collate it would incur disproportionate cost.

We have no intention of recording the data as suggested by the hon. Member.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67818]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has not spent any money on hospitality for staff since May 2010.

Departmental Photographs

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on ministerial photo shoots and videos since May 2010. [67819]

Mr Swire: A total of £239 including VAT was spent on official ministerial photographs following their appointment. No videos have been commissioned.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66619]

Mr Paterson: The value of contracts held by my Department, based on spend in 2010-11, is as follows:

	Value of contract (£)
ICT/Telecoms	427,427
Professional Services	96,000
Travel & Supplies Services	479,262
Facilities	290,000
Building Works (in respect of NIO's Home Protection Scheme)	928,314

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67826]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has not had any redundancy costs since May 2010.

Departmental Training

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what training was provided. [67824]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has spent £260 on ministerial training since May 2010. This was for a Cabinet Office-led action learning set.

Third Sector

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67823]

Mr Swire: Since 12 May 2010, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), has visited The Prince's Trust; the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace; Mediation Northern Ireland; Right Here Fermanagh Project and the Arc Healthy Living Centre.

During the same period, I have visited Action Cancer; Saver/Naver; Wave Trauma Centre; RNLI; Soldiers Charity and Army Benevolent Fund; Bryson Charitable Group and re:store Premises.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans any further consultation on bids for the allocation of future funding for Broadband UK after the initial announcement on the allocation. [67704]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have announced four pilot areas, Highlands and Islands, Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and three further projects in Norfolk, Devon and Somerset and Wiltshire. Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is now working with county councils and local enterprise partnerships to help them prepare their local broadband plans and the Government will be announcing all allocations in the near future.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department plans to make further announcements on the allocation of funding for Broadband UK. [67705]

Mr Vaizey: The Government will be announcing all allocations in the near future. The breakdown of funding was published in the press notice accompanying the publication of Britain's Superfast Broadband Future on 6 December. It can be found on the Department's website using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7619.aspx

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's announcement of 6 December 2010 on funding for a strategy for the UK broadband network and to his letter to hon. Members of 14 July 2011 on funding for the rollout of high speed broadband; for what reason the sum of £830 million was announced in December 2010 and the sum of £530 million was announced in June 2011. [67889]

Mr Vaizey: The Government announced in the 2010 spending review that they would be investing £530 million over the spending review period, including £300 million from the TV licence fee, to improve the UK's broadband network. In addition there is the potential for a further £150 million per year from the TV licence fee settlement for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Sport: European Parliament

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of European Parliament proposals for a European identity through sport. [67793]

Hugh Robertson: There is no provision in the new treaty on the functioning of the European Union for the EU to compel member states to take specific action in relation to sport. The flags which are flown at grounds and the symbols which are displayed on shirts are entirely a matter for national governing bodies, competition organisers and clubs themselves.

Television: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions his Department has had with broadcasters on the representation of women in children's television programmes; [67663]

(2) what representations his Department has received from members of the public on the depiction of female characters in children's television programmes; [67664]

(3) what consideration he has given to measures to improve the representation of women in children's television programmes. [67666]

Mr Vaizey: Under current broadcasting arrangements, responsibility for what is broadcast on television and radio rests with the broadcasters and the organisations that regulate broadcasting—the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the BBC Trust and the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority (S4C)—within the overall framework set by the Communications Act 2003 and the BBC Charter and Agreement.

It is a long-standing principle that the Government do not interfere in programme matters, either on arrangements for scheduling or on content. It is important to maintain the principle of freedom of expression which political interference could undermine.

Ofcom, the BBC Trust and S4C are independent of the Government and responsible for safeguarding the public interest in broadcasting. They set out the rules and guidance with which broadcasters must comply. Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and the time at which they are broadcast.

The Department has not received any representations from members of the public on this matter.

Third Sector

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67813]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Video Games

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department plans to respond to the Livingstone-Hope Skills Review of Video Games and Visual Effects; and if he will make a statement. [66388]

Mr Vaizey: The Government committed in The Plan for Growth to respond to the Livingstone-Hope review in the summer of 2011.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in the Government Equalities Office directly and *(b)* the Government Equalities Office on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67589]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not keep records of meeting requests that have been declined by either a Minister directly or by the Department on their behalf.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 3W on Equality and Human Rights Commission, whether an obligation to ensure political balance in the composition of the board of commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission will form part of the Government's proposals arising from the consultation on the future of the Commission; and if she will make a statement. [66468]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: The consultation on the future of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) closed on 15 June 2011. The consultation did not include proposals regarding the political balance of the EHRC Board of Commissioners and there are no current plans to cover this in the Government's response when it is published later this year.

TREASURY

Bank Levy

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by how much the rate of the bank levy is expected to change in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [66719]

(2) how much revenue he estimates will accrue to the Exchequer from the bank payroll tax in 2011-12. [66720]

Mr Hoban: The bank payroll tax, introduced during the previous Parliament, was a one-off tax which applied from 9 December 2009 to 5 April 2010. In line with guidance from the Office for National Statistics, the yield from the bank payroll tax was allocated to the 2010-11 tax year, as this is the point at which the tax was passed into legislation. No further revenues from this tax will be collected in 2011-12.

Information on the expected yield from the Bank Levy was published as part of the March Budget, in the relevant Tax Information and Impact Note.

A link to the document is given here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6123.pdf

Bombardier

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects on tax revenue to the Exchequer of the proposed redundancies of employees of Bombardier. [65262]

Justine Greening: Neither HM Treasury nor HM Revenue and Customs hold the detailed commercial information required to provide a reliable estimate of the effect of the proposed redundancies on all tax revenues.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Departments have a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors; [66627]

(2) how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66629]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not hold information on the number of apprenticeships created directly over this period by contracts it has let.

Where appropriate contract conditions and performance requirements are included in major Treasury contracts.

Departmental Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of written correspondence his Department answered within 28 days of receipt in the latest period for which figures are available. [58541]

Bob Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of letters to his Department from hon. Members were answered by his Department *(a)* within one week of, *(b)* within two weeks of, *(c)* within three weeks of, *(d)* within four weeks of, *(e)* within five weeks of and *(f)* at least six weeks after the date on which they were received in the period since May 2010. [59796]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 11 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61705]

Justine Greening: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 27 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 627W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67721]

Justine Greening: The provision of refreshments, including hospitality, at meetings or functions within HM Treasury for Treasury staff, other Whitehall civil servants and non-executive directors has been prohibited since 1 July 2010. Hospitality may be provided where external guests are present. The attendance of Treasury staff at such meetings is dependent on a necessary business need and their number should not exceed the number of external guests. Spending on such hospitality between May 2010 and 31 March 2011 was £15,000.

Departmental Photographs

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on ministerial photoshoots and videos since May 2010. [67722]

Justine Greening: The Department has not incurred any spending on photoshoots and videos since May 2010.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66628]

Justine Greening: In May 2011 the Treasury refreshed its 2011-15 business plan; this can be viewed online:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_business_plan.htm

Annex A (pages 6-7) to this plan provides data on HM Treasury spend by Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey (PSPES) master category for 2009-10.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
hmt_business_plan_annexA.pdf

Departmental Redundancy

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67712]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 480W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the responsibilities were of each Minister in his Department between 8 May 2006 and 28 June 2007. [67488]

Justine Greening: Details of current and previous ministers' responsibilities are set out annually in the Treasury report and accounts, copies of which are in the Library and accessible via the Treasury website. In line with the practice followed by successive administrations, it would not be proper to comment on appointments made in the period covered by the hon. Member's question.

Departmental Training

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what training was provided. [67825]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 808W.

Disadvantaged: Financial Services

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have visited the website of the Money Advice Service since its inception; [66398]

(2) how many people have contacted the National Financial Advice Service and received financial advice since its inception; [66399]

(3) how many people have completed the annual financial healthcheck to date. [66400]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service launched on 4 April 2011. The service launched its online health check tool on 8 June 2011.

Since April 201 land as of 12 July 2011 the Money Advice Service has received 1.25m web visits. In this period there were 12,400 face-to-face money advice sessions and 21,849 phone calls to the service's money advice line.

Since the launch of the Money Advice Service online health check, it has received over 90,000 visits, with a 67% completion rate.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has assessed the potential cost pressures on the *(a)* public sector, *(b)* police and *(c)* armed forces of (i) trends in the cost of petrol and diesel and (ii) the planned increase in fuel duty in January 2012. [66818]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published a full analysis on the prospects for economic growth, employment and inflation in their forecast at Budget, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsbility.independent.gov.uk

Government Departments: Internet

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contract held by *(a)* Serco and *(b)* Sweet and Maxwell on the production of editorial material for Government websites. [67341]

Mr Gauke: This response refers to the contract between HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Serco for the provision of the www.businesslink.gov.uk (and related) websites.

This contract is for a fully outsourced service.

Sweet and Maxwell are subcontracted by Serco to supply content related services, including the production of editorial material.

In 2010, HMRC arranged for the contract with Serco to be independently benchmarked. The benchmarking report concluded that the contract was generally good value for money. No specific recommendations were made about the production of editorial material.

The www.businesslink.gov.uk site had nearly 20 million visitors last year and customer satisfaction remains at over 90%.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67200]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury guidance usually relates to non-regulatory issues such as Government accounting, finance guidance, or business case methodologies (including the Green Book). HM Treasury's policy is to comply with best practice on producing guidance, and applicable legal procedures. HM Treasury does not keep records of the numbers of officials engaged in issuing guidance.

Independent Public Service Pensions Commission

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the underlying data for chart 1.E of the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission. [63641]

Danny Alexander: The data underlying chart 1E of Lord Hutton's final report were published in tables 4.2 and 4.18 of Cm 7979: Office for Budget Responsibility, the Economic and Fiscal Outlook, 29 November 2010. This is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

and the relevant data are reproduced as follows.

£ billion

Economic and fiscal outlook November 2010	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Central Government unfunded public service pensions expenditure	25.7	27.1	28.8	30.1	31.6	33.2
Nominal GDP	1,483	1,550	1,628	1,721	1,817	1,916

Following the publication of Lord Hutton's final report on 10 March 2011, the OBR published an updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 23 March 2011: Cm 8036, available at

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

Tables 4.3 and 4.20 are equivalent to 4.2 and 4.18 in the November Economic and Fiscal Outlook and the data from the March Outlook are reproduced as follows.

£ billion

Economic and fiscal outlook March 2011	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Central Government unfunded public service pensions expenditure	26.1	27.4	29.2	30.6	32.2	33.7.
Nominal GDP	1,473	1,544	1,625	1,717	1,814	1,915

Those particular tables do not include expenditure on unfunded pensions administered by local authorities, but these will be included in long-term projections of spending on unfunded public service pensions provided by the Office of Budget Responsibility.

Liverpool Cruise Terminal

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings he has had with representatives of the Chinese Government at which the Liverpool cruise terminal was discussed; and if he will make a statement; [67096]

(2) whether the presentation he made to the Chinese Vice-Premier in January 2011 referred to the Liverpool cruise terminal; and what assumptions were made concerning its future operational role and function. [67097]

Danny Alexander: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer given on 15 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 485W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 June 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs K Worthington. [67514]

Mr Hoban: On 7 June in response to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton's constituent's letter the Treasury reissued my March letter on the subject of Lloyds Action Now.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Stephen Pennells. [67516]

Mr Hoban: On 13 June in response to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton's constituent's letter the Treasury reissued my December letter on the subject of agriculture derivatives markets and their effect on world food prices which addressed all the points raised.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the total number of businesses that are eligible for the regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses; [63265]

(2) how many businesses in each qualifying region have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* participated in the employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses in each month since September 2010; [63266]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of the regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses on *(a)* the balance of regional economic growth, *(b)* the level of new start-ups and *(c)* growth in the private sector. [63267]

Mr Gauke: The information is as follows:

(1) This information is available in the Budget 2010 policy costings note, page 21, at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

(2) Up to 8 July 2011, HMRC had received 5,137 successful and 163 unsuccessful applications for the NICs holiday from new businesses. Regional and monthly breakdown for successful applications can be found in table 1. Table 2 shows the regional breakdown for unsuccessful applications, but a monthly breakdown of these figures is not available.

Table 1: Regional and monthly breakdown of successful NICs holiday applications

	Northern Ireland	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*East Midlands*	*North East*	*North West*	*South West*	*West Midlands*	*Yorks. and Humber*	*Total*
2010										
September	7	20	11	26	18	50	53	31	40	256
October	21	45	26	31	22	71	53	52	48	369
November	20	60	37	52	28	94	76	54	72	493

Table 1: Regional and monthly breakdown of successful NICs holiday applications

	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	East Midlands	North East	North West	South West	West Midlands	Yorks. and Humber	Total
December	14	39	17	26	26	43	49	47	34	295
2011										
January	13	49	24	33	29	71	62	42	55	378
February	19	75	26	61	36	95	78	61	67	518
March	37	108	44	49	36	118	109	91	87	679
April	25	82	30	58	27	96	109	66	59	552
May	34	119	48	83	58	166	131	90	99	828
June	21	99	30	56	39	92	90	62	62	551
July	7	25	20	18	7	50	44	25	22	218
Total	218	721	313	493	326	946	854	621	645	5,137

Table 2: Regional breakdown of unsuccessful NICs holiday applications

	Unsuccessful applications
Northern Ireland	11
Scotland	14
Wales	12
East Midlands	12
North East	15
North West	29
South West	24
West Midlands	27
Yorks. And Humber	19

(3) No specific assessment has been made of the potential impact of the NICs holiday on *(a)* the balance of regional economic growth, *(b)* the level of new start-ups or *(c)* growth in the private sector.

The policy is designed to support new businesses in their first year, reducing the cost of hiring staff and improve the likelihood of business survival in the potentially vulnerable early stages. The Budget costing did not account for any additional start-up activity or any wider macro-economic benefits from the policy.

Earlier this year, HMRC commissioned some research into the initial operation of the scheme. This suggests that awareness among potentially eligible employers was lower than expected but the scheme has a positive influence on the prospects for taking on staff and the future growth of businesses for many of the businesses interviewed. Full results of the survey will be published shortly.

National Insurance Contributions: Sheffield

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough constituency have participated in the national insurance contribution holiday. [64187]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has received eight applications for the NICs Holiday from new businesses in Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough since the introduction of the scheme.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated as required in the Green Book, for all public sector economic assessments of all private finance initiative projects in procurement as of March 2011. [66892]

Danny Alexander: Differences in tax receipts between PFI and conventionally funded projects are considered as part of HM Treasury's Value for Money model which is run for each PFI project. The model is available, with guidance, at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_vfm_index.htm

The final project documentation, including information about tax expectations, is not held by Treasury and therefore cannot be provided.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many officials of HM Revenue and Customs were assigned to duties involving the prevention of tax avoidance in each year since 2007; [67717]

(2) how many HM Revenue and Customs officials are assigned to duties involving prevention of avoidance of tax on foreign profits; [67719]

(3) how many HM Revenue and Customs tax experts have been working on tax avoidance and evasion by large businesses in each year since 2007. [67736]

Mr Gauke: HMRC undertakes a range of activities to address risk within and across business and individual customer groups under the three core elements of its anti-avoidance strategy: prevention, detection and counteraction.

Although some officials have roles dedicated to addressing avoidance risk the majority of staffing for HMRC's compliance activity cannot be broken down in this way as activities—from policy making, through support and education, to audits and investigations—cover all aspects of compliance behaviour from error through to evasion as well as countering criminal attacks and avoidance.

In 2009-10 HMRC deployed approximately 31,000 staff at all grades on a variety of compliance activities including risk assessment, addressing inaccurate returns and verifying repayment claims, debt collection and criminal investigations across all heads of duty. The equivalent figure for 2008-09 was some 32,000 staff.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs officials have been dealing with tax credit queries from the public since January 2010; and what the cost of such officials has been in each month since January 2010. [67718]

Mr Gauke: Information is not available in the format requested. Although the majority of customer queries are handled by helpline adviser in HM Revenue and Customs' Contact Centres, these advisers are used flexibly across different lines of business to provide the best possible service to customers and are unable to be disaggregated. It is also not possible to supply details of all staff that might have dealt with tax credits queries from the public within "back offices" or inquiry centres.

Revenue and Customs: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at HM Revenue and Customs are entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [65980]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not permit any of its staff to act as full-time trade union representatives. However individuals are entitled to spend a maximum amount of 200 days on union duties in any year. In 2010-11 10 union representatives each used 200 days. HMRC currently has 2,044 staff engaged part-time on union duties; of these 592 have an annual salary of more than £25,900. The estimated salary cost of union facility time for 2010-11 was £5.5 million. This equates to 0.24% of the total HMRC pay bill.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the revenue forgone by the Exchequer in tax *(a)* evasion and *(b)* avoidance. [67720]

Mr Gauke: The latest tax gap estimates were published in September 2010 in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2010' on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

This publication also contained an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap by behaviour for 2007-08. This estimated that evasion and avoidance each accounted for around 17.5% of the total tax gap.

HMRC will be publishing "Measuring Tax Gaps 2011" on 21 September 2011.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has made to the Governments of *(a)* Colombia and *(b)* South Africa on adoption of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. [67476]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Business Department—BIS—officials have been liaising with Colombian officials, sharing best practice, to support Colombia's effective implementation of the OECD Guidelines, once Colombia's application process to adhere to the OECD Guidelines has formally concluded. BIS officials have discussed South Africa's adherence to the OECD Guidelines with a visiting MP from South Africa.

Taxation: Sports

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to alter the terms of the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme. [67536]

Justine Greening: As with all tax policy, Government keep the reliefs and exemptions for Community Amateur Sports Clubs under review. Changes to tax policy are announced at the Budget.

Third Sector

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67713]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public, private and third sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. However, a list of meetings with external organisations is provided quarterly on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Valuation Office Agency: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the decision to remove pay intentions from HM Revenue and Customs staff working in the Valuation Office Agency in the 2010 pay award has been subject to an equality impact assessment; and if he will place a copy of any such assessment in the Library. [66311]

Mr Gauke: In implementing the public sector pay freeze the Valuation Office Agency was unable to make consolidated pay awards in 2010 unless they were contractual or were for staff earning less than £21,000 (full-time equivalent). After taking extensive advice, the agency concluded that the 'intentions to maximum' policy was not a contractual obligation and therefore pay increases relating to this policy could not be paid during the pay freeze. No equality impact assessment was carried out as it could have no impact on the implementation of the pay freeze, which is mandatory and affects all staff in the agency. A full equal pay review was undertaken by the agency, in consultation with the trade union side, after the board's conclusion on the compatibility of the intentions to maximum policy with the terms of the public sector pay freeze.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has taken to ensure that removing pay intentions for staff is not discriminatory on grounds of age; and if he will ensure that the pay offer made to VOA staff on 3 February 2011 is subject to an equality impact assessment. [66312]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency's 'intention to maximum policy' could not be implemented within the terms of the public sector pay freeze as it applied to the civil service. The terms of the pay freeze mean that consolidated pay increases can only be made if they are contractual or are for staff earning less than £21,000 (full-time equivalent). The VOA is reviewing its pay system during the period of the pay freeze and will take account of the impacts of any proposed new system on protected groups as part of that work.

The VOA also conducts equal pay reviews every three years, in line with Cabinet Office guidelines, and intends to undertake a further equal pay review once any revised pay system has been established. A full equal pay review was undertaken by the agency, in consultation with the trade union side after the board's conclusion on the compatibility of the intentions to maximum policy with the terms of the public sector pay freeze, and this included an assessment of the agency's pay system in relation to age.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Budgets

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made in the roll-out of community budgets for families with multiple problems. [66440]

Greg Clark: Community budgets for families with multiple problems have been established in 16 areas covering 28 authorities. My colleagues, the Noble Baroness Hanham and the Under-Secretary of State for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton), wrote to all local authority Leaders on 7 July setting out our intention to roll out Community budgets for families with multiple problems across England and inviting Leaders to express an interest in establishing a Community Budget for families with multiple problems in their area. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67172]

(2) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party; [67195]

(3) on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67592]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 211-12W. DCLG Ministers meet regularly hon. Members of all parties. It would not be a good use of resources to collect data on the lines the hon. Member suggests.

Departmental Training

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what training was provided. [67810]

Andrew Stunell: No training for Ministers has been funded by the Department in the time period specified.

Family Migration

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 390W, and the written ministerial statement by the Minister for Immigration of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, on family migration, how his Department plans to integrate its policy on social housing with the policy of the Home Department on family migration. [67895]

Grant Shapps: Third country nationals, including family migrants, who have been granted settlement must also be habitually resident in order to be eligible for social housing. The habitual residence test is not affected by the proposed changes to the settlement requirements set out in the Home Office's consultation on family migration.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65773]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 13 July 2011]*: The Noble Baroness Hanham represents the Department for Communities and Local Government on the inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking.

The inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking co-ordinates work on trafficking across Government. The group brings together Ministers from key Departments to provide oversight and to strengthen our efforts to tackle human trafficking by ensuring that input and expertise from all Departments is shared.

The Government will shortly be publishing its strategy on human trafficking.

The strategy will reiterate the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims. It will also mark a greater focus on combating the organised crime groups behind this crime.

The Government's approach will be based on four key principles:

improved victim care arrangements;

enhancing our ability to act early, before the harm has reached the UK;

smarter, multi-agency action at the border; and

a more co-ordinated policing effort at home.

Local Government: Accountability

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has to ensure equality in engagement in local decision-making following the repeal of the duty to involve; [64261]

(2) whether he plans to conduct an equality impact assessment in respect of the repeal of the duty to involve; [64262]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of repealing the duty to involve on his proposals to increase community empowerment under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [64263]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had on the effects of repealing the duty to involve on the provision of services. [66237]

Robert Neill: The consultation on draft Best Value guidance generated discussion on the repeal of the duty to involve. Officials have also had discussions on the repeal with the Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Board—co-chaired by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell)—constituting a number of voluntary and community sector representative organisations.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that local authorities remain responsible for securing the benefit of involvement. [66238]

Robert Neill: We are encouraging local authorities and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary groups in the design and running of public services. In this context, we recently consulted on light touch statutory guidance on the best value duty setting out some reasonable expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions. The consultation closed on 14 June and we expect to provide a government response and publish final guidance this summer.

Under the Local Government Act 1999, there is a duty to consult local representatives which supports the duty of best value. This will be backed up by the additional support for voluntary and community groups in the Best Value guidance. In addition, the new duties contained in the Localism Bill (i.e. the community rights to challenge and buy) aim to have a greater impact on links between councils and communities.

Local Government: Freedom of Information

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remedies are provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of local authorities that fail to make a full disclosure to a request made under the Act. [67089]

Andrew Stunell: The Freedom of Information Act applies to a wide range of public authorities; its provisions are not specific to local authorities. The Act provides for exemptions from the duty to provide information, in specific circumstances, so full disclosure may not be required.

If a local authority, or any other public authority, fails to comply with the Act, enforcement falls upon the Information commissioner, who may:

investigate complaints and issue formal decision notices;

serve an information notice requiring organisations to provide specified information within a certain time period;

issue an undertaking committing an authority to a particular course of action to improve its compliance;

serve an enforcement notice where there has been a breach of the Act, requiring organisations to take (or refrain from taking) specified steps in order to ensure they comply with the law;

publicly highlight particular issues with an authority's handling of a specific request.

A local authority is, in common with all authorities subject to the Act, required in most cases to confirm whether information requested is held and, if that is the case, provide that information unless it is determined to be exempt.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Selby and Ainsty of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 855W, on tenancy deposit schemes, what financial payments were made or underwritten by his Department as part of the revised agreement negotiated in August 2010; [67696]

(2) what the estimated shortfall arising from low interest rates was that resulted in the revised agreement negotiated in August 2010; [67697]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the revised agreement of August 2010, redacting any commercially confidential elements to facilitate disclosure. [67698]

Grant Shapps: A service concession agreement that was originally agreed by the previous Administration with the custodial tenancy deposit protection scheme contained a guarantee that the Government would meet any shortfall arising if approved fees were not covered by the interest on deposits held.

As a result of the low interest rates that emerged due to the financial turmoil in 2008 and 2009, this agreement left the Government—i.e. taxpayers—liable for a shortfall under that guarantee which was estimated to reach over £30 million by the end of the contract in 2012.

In May 2010, the coalition Government inherited this unacceptable situation and looming liabilities. Following extensive negotiations in summer 2010, the guarantee and all associated liabilities were removed as part of a revised agreement which also incorporated a payment of £12.7 million and a four-year extension of the original agreement.

The new agreement has been designed not only to remove future and current liabilities for Government and secure the best deal for taxpayers, but to safeguard the ongoing viability of the custodial model of tenancy deposit protection and safeguard the interests of tenants.

Hon. Members and the broader public will rightly wish to scrutinise the poor decisions of the last Administration. The new agreement was made in the form of a letter amending the original, flawed agreement. Redacted copies of both documents will be deposited in the Library of the House in due course.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Meetings

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Prime Minister what protocols apply to members of the Government who attend meetings with foreign Heads of State and Government in a private capacity. [64834]

Mr Hague: I have been asked to reply.

It is the convention that Ministers and members of the Government inform the Foreign and Commonwealth Office when they are attending meetings with foreign Heads of State.

Ministers are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the Ministerial Code when carrying out their official duties.

SCOTLAND

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67570]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office has no subscription to Sky TV, therefore no expenditure has been incurred since May 2010.

Corporation Tax

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions officials in his Department had with officials of HM Revenue and Customs on the cost of varying the rate of corporation tax in Scotland in advance of his speech to Scottish Financial Enterprise on 23 June 2011. [66764]

Michael Moore: My officials have regular discussions with officials of HM Revenue and Customs on a wide range of issues, including the cost of varying the rate of corporation tax in Scotland. Since then, the methodology of the calculations were published by HMRC in their note, 'Explanatory Note on estimating the cost of a reduction in the Corporation Tax rate in Scotland', on 13 July 2011.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to his Department's press release of 23 June 2011, what the evidential basis was for the figure of £2.6 billion cited as the cost of reducing the rate of corporation tax in Scotland. [66766]

Michael Moore: As the press release outlined, HMRC had drafted provisional figures showing that

> "if the Scottish Government were to cut Corporation Tax to the same level as Ireland there could be a gap of more than £2.6 billion in the Scottish Budget."

The methodology of the calculations were published by HMRC in their note, 'Explanatory Note on estimating the cost of a reduction in the Corporation Tax rate in Scotland', on 13 July 2011.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66621]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not generally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies. Therefore, a policy to include a requirement for the provision of apprenticeships or other training by contractors and/or subcontractors would be an issue for those bodies letting the contracts.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66623]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not generally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies. Therefore, if available, the number of apprenticeships created by these contracts would generally be held by those bodies letting the contracts.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66749]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office's estimate of the carbon dioxide emissions from energy used on its estate during June 2010 was 13.5 tonnes and for non-car travel was 16.6 tonnes. No record of car mileage was kept. The estimates for June 2011 are not yet available.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67443]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on hospitality for staff since May 2010.

Departmental Photographs

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on photoshoots and videos involving Ministers since May 2010. [67442]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office has not incurred any expenditure on photoshoots or videos involving Ministers since May 2010.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66622]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not generally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies. However, the Office does hold some small and historic contracts within the private sector which total an annual value of approximately £112,000.

Departmental Redundancy

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67440]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office has not incurred any redundancy costs since May 2010. The Office does not employ staff directly. All of its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. As such, redundancy issues, and any subsequent costs, are a matter for these bodies.

Departmental Training

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was in each case. [67441]

Michael Moore: Since May 2010, the Scotland Office has not incurred any expenditure on training for Ministers.

Non-domestic Rates

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on proposals to allow local authorities in England to amend business rates. [66744]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), on a wide range of issues.

Scottish Financial Enterprise

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech or speaking note for his engagement at Scottish Financial Enterprise on 23 June 2011. [66765]

Michael Moore: A copy of my speaking note for this engagement has now been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Third Sector

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what charities and voluntary organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67439]

Michael Moore: Scotland Office Ministers have visited a range of charities and voluntary organisations since 12 May 2010. Details of meetings with external organisations are published on the Government's Transparency website at:

http://data.gov.uk

Trade Groups

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what mechanisms he plans to establish for his proposed Scottish trade group to interact with *(a)* UK Trade and Investment, *(b)* Scottish Development International and *(c)* the Scottish Council for Development and Industry. [66828]

Michael Moore: On 8 July 2011, I established the Scottish Trade Group to examine ways in which the UK Government can do more to help Scottish companies do business overseas. Its purpose is to serve as a direct channel for companies and others in Scotland to share views with the UK Government on their trade and investment priorities.

We are working in partnership with the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI), who will provide secretariat support and hosting facilities. The group will include representatives from UK Trade and Investment, Scottish Development International and SCDI, as well as representatives from a range of industry sectors from across Scotland.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Ministerial Meetings

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Attorney-General when he last met *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* Andy Coulson. [67366]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General has not met James Murdoch, Rebekah Brooks, or Andy Coulson since his appointment in May 2010.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Attorney-General on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67923]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General has made seven economy class flights while on official business during the last 12 months, including one on a budget airline. The five trips from the UK were return flights. The details are contained in the following table.

Date	*From*	*Destination*	*Airline*
6 September 2010	UK	Belfast	BMI
21 November 2010	UK	Munich	British Airways
5 May 2011	UK	Luxembourg	Air France
13 June 2011	UK	Dublin	Aer Lingus
22 June 2011	UK	Strasbourg	Air France/ Brussels Airlines
17 July 2011	Sydney	Auckland	Air New Zealand
18 July 2011	Auckland	Wellington	Air New Zealand

Departmental Official Hospitality

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67809]

The Solicitor-General: The total expenditure by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on hospitality in the financial year 2010-11 was £9,957; this figure includes the provision of water, soft drinks and sandwiches for official meetings. The CPS does not routinely fund hospitality for staff, although occasionally a small official event may be held and will be attended by both CPS staff and key stakeholders from other Criminal Justice System agencies. The CPS does not hold central records of the expenditure on such events attended by staff and the information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have no record of any expenditure on staff hospitality.

Departmental Photographs

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers Departments have spent on photoshoots and videos involving Ministers since May 2010. [67518]

The Attorney-General: The Attorney-General's Office has spent £385 on a photo shoot since May 2010. There has not been any expenditure on videos involving Ministers.

The other Law Officer's Departments have not spent any funds on photo shoots or videos involving Ministers.

Departmental Redundancy

Kate Green: To ask the Attorney-General how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67435]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Attorney-General to the questions on departmental redundancy tabled by the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell) on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 120W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67153]

The Solicitor-General: Where appropriate, the Law Officers make every effort to facilitate requests for meetings with hon. Members. The following table details the numbers of meetings the Attorney-General has had with hon. Members from all political parties (excluding Government Ministers), and includes meetings with the Shadow Solicitor-General. The data are drawn from the available departmental records and thus may not capture all such meetings which might have taken place since May 2010.

Political Party	*Number of meetings*
Labour	6
Conservative	2

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in the Law Officers' Departments directly and *(b)* the Law Officers' Departments on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67594]

The Solicitor-General: Records of such requests are not maintained by the Law Officers' Departments and the information requested could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Attorney-General how much his Departments have spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was. [67680]

The Solicitor-General: There has been no expenditure on Ministers training since May 2010.

Law Officers' Department

Mr Denham: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Law Officers' Departments have a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) the Departments' prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66630]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) encourages the creation of apprenticeships and a skilled work force. The Department issues standard contracts for the procurement of most goods and services. These contracts are based on the Office of Government Commerce's standard terms and conditions and where applicable, require the contractor to have: training plans; a specified proportion of the workforce as trainees, apprentices or long-term unemployed; and a specified proportion of the hours worked in delivering the contract undertaken by trainees, apprentices or long-term unemployed.

These terms and conditions apply to the prime contractor only and are not applicable to sub-contractors.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) encourages the creation of apprenticeships and a skilled work force. Wherever possible the SFO utilise Office of Government Commerce framework and their standard terms and conditions (where applicable) require contractors to have apprenticeship schemes or training opportunities in place.

The Treasury Solicitors Department does not have a policy to require the provision of apprenticeships or other training by prime contractors, or suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors: if the use of apprentice labour is relevant to the provision of a particular service, and is likely to lead to improved value for money, it is included in the tender requirements and evaluation process.

The Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are covered by TSol arrangements.

Mr Denham: To ask the Attorney-General how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last three years. [66632]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments are unable to determine from centrally held records if any apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts held with them in each of the last three years. To provide this information would involve requesting information from all suppliers and this would incur a disproportionate costs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of the Law Officers' Departments have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67176]

The Solicitor-General: No. There is no clear operational or administrative need to keep records of each and every request made for a meeting with the Law Officers or departmental officials and to do so would cause disproportionate expense.

Third Sector

Kate Green: To ask the Attorney-General which charities and voluntary organisations *(a)* he and *(b)* the Solicitor-General has visited since 12 May 2010. [67434]

The Solicitor-General: I visited the Mediation and Pro Bono Clinic at Elizabeth House Surgery in Warlingham, Surrey on 31 January 2011. The Attorney-General has not visited any charities or voluntary organisations since May 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66585]

Chris Grayling: All new DWP contracts include an Apprenticeship and Skills Requirements contract schedule. This schedule requires suppliers to provide an initial written report (six months after contract start date) and then annually thereafter. The report must reflect all sub-contractors involved in delivery of the contract and provide details on:

the number of existing apprenticeships involved in delivery of the contract;

the number of new starts on apprenticeships initiated as a result of delivery of the contract;

action being taken to improve the take up of apprenticeships;

other training/development being undertaken by staff involved in delivery of the contract.

DWP also have a Supplier Charter which details some of the key targets, policies and principles that DWP expect their suppliers to contribute towards. One of these principles is apprenticeships and skills development. All 45 of DWP's critical suppliers have signed, and committed to, the Supplier Charter.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66587]

Chris Grayling: For the last two years apprenticeships have been funded through the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education. The National Apprenticeship Service was set up two years ago has since then been delivering apprenticeships in England.

Asbestos: EU Law

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 817W, on asbestos: EU laws, what representations he received on protection of workers from risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. [67884]

Chris Grayling: To date I have received no representations about the transposition of Article 3(3)(a) of EU Directive 2009/148/EC into domestic law. A public consultation on the proposed legislative changes will be held shortly. This will provide an opportunity for interested parties to make representations about the changes.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 817W, on asbestos: EU law, on what basis he considers that further public consideration is required in response to the UK having been found not to have fully implemented Article 3(3)(a) of EU Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to the exposure to asbestos at work. [67885]

Chris Grayling: In compliance with its statutory duty under Section 50(3) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974, HSE will be undertaking a public consultation on its proposals to implement Article 3(3)(a) of EU Directive 2009/148/EC.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the UK to fully implement article 3 of EU directive 2003/18/EG. [67886]

Chris Grayling: It is planned that the UK will fully implement article 3 of EU directive 2003/18/EG into domestic legislation in April 2012.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67571]

Chris Grayling: DWP has had no expenditure on TV subscriptions for Sky TV for the period from 1 May 2010 to 30 June 2011.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the original estimate, at current prices, was of the cost to the public purse of the computer system supplied by EDS Systems for the Child Support Agency's payment system; what the final cost, at current prices, was at the time of completion; and whether additional costs have been incurred since completion. [65626]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the original estimate, at current prices, was of the cost to the public purse of the computer system supplied by EDS Systems for the Child Support Agency's payment system; what the final cost, at current prices, was at the time of completion; and whether additional costs have been incurred since completion. [65626]

The question has been assumed to relate to the CS2 child maintenance system, which was built by EDS and went live in 2003. "The cost to the public purse of the computer system" has been assumed to mean the cost of developing the system, rather than the cost of developing and running the system.

The original outline estimate given by EDS (now Hewlett Packard) in 1999 for the cost of the build of the new CS2 system was £94m. This estimate is disclosed in the National Audit Office's (NAO) June 2006 report "Implementation of the child support reforms". At today's prices, based on the Retail Price Index at December 1999 and June 2011, the £94m translates to £132.2m.

The actual cost of developing the CS2 system was £225m. At today's prices, based on the RPI at April 2003, when the system went live, and June 2011, the £225m translates to £292.1m.

During the Operational Improvement Plan (OIP), which ran between April 2006 and April 2009, a further £107m was invested in development to the CS2 system. This amount was disclosed in the NAO's December 2009 report on the performance of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. At today's prices, based on the RPI for April 2009, when the OIP closed, and June 2011, the £107m translates to £119m.

Following the closure of the OIP, two further remedial releases were made on the CS2 system. The cost of release 17, in 2009, was £4.2m. Release 18, in 2010, cost £5.4m. At today's prices, based on the RPI for December 2009 and December 2010 respectively and the RPI for June 2011, these translate to a total cost of £10.1 m.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has carried out on the likely range of changes in child maintenance liability that will occur if non-resident parents who are currently subject to a nil assessment for statutory child maintenance purposes are transferred to the future statutory scheme to begin in 2012. [65697]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what modelling his Department has carried out on the likely range of changes in child maintenance liability that will occur if non-resident parents who are currently subject to a nil assessment for statutory child maintenance purposes are transferred to the future statutory scheme to begin in 2012. [65697]

The Commission will consult on a package of regulations for the future scheme calculation later this year. This will detail impacts of regulations on the State, employers and individuals using the services, including non-resident parents who are currently subject to a nil assessment under the Child Support Agency schemes. The consultation document will include details of the modelling used by the Commission.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 41W, on compensation, what steps he is taking to reduce the need for his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies to compensate the public. [63941]

Chris Grayling: The Department makes consolatory payments in certain circumstances where there has been maladministration, as set out in my answer to my hon. Friend of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 41-2W. We have a variety of measures in place with an objective of reducing levels of maladministration, and consequentially the amount of consolatory payments made. These include:

a joint DWP/HMRC strategy to reduce welfare fraud and error (published October 2010);

compliance teams in all agencies to ensure processes are being followed correctly;

a published Charter of service standards, to ensure individuals understand the service standards they can expect from any DWP agency; and

embedding the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's principles of good administration across the Department.

DWP is also committed to using continuous improvement tools across the Department and its agencies to ensure our service is as efficient and effective as possible.

Non-departmental public bodies can also make consolatory payments in certain circumstances where there has been maladministration[1]. The Department's NDPBs adopt a proportionate approach with regards to reducing the need to compensate the public. This varies from body to body but includes policies of continuous improvement.

[1] Although CMEC and ILF are taking steps to reduce the compensation which is paid to the public, other NDPBs (HSE and PP/PPF) are not taking any steps as the level of compensation paid out by these bodies has been, historically, very low.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 238W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67928]

Chris Grayling: The Combined Heat and Power Plant installed in Quarry House Leeds, currently the only source of low-carbon energy generation on the Department's estate, was manufactured in Salford, Greater Manchester by ENER-G Combined Power Ltd.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66572]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold central records itemising assets taken or lost. Actions are taken at local level—where the information is recorded—and it would incur a disproportionate cost to obtain the information requested.

In all cases of theft the matter is fully investigated and appropriate action taken by the Department. For certain items (such as computers and BlackBerry phones), where the item is not recovered, the police will be informed as a matter of routine.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since 12 May 2010. [67715]

Chris Grayling: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Expenditure on hospitality from May 2010 to June 2011 is less than £3,000. Comparatively expenditure for the financial year 2009-10 was £25,000. We constantly seek to review and drive down expenditure in all areas.

Departmental Photographs

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on photoshoots and videos involving Ministers since May 2010. [67445]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 the Department for Work and Pensions has spent a total of £1,990.08 on four occasions when photographs were required of ministerial visits.

All other photography and videos are done internally by DWP staff.

Departmental Redundancy

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67447]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 1,563 members of staff have left the Department and its agencies under early release schemes at a cost of £70.9 million.

All early releases have all been voluntary and there have been no compulsory redundancies. Releases were all subject to governance processes designed to ensure that they supported business objectives and represented value for money.

Regulations: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67199]

Chris Grayling: Regulatory guidance on social security benefits is contained in the Decision Makers Guide (DMG), an electronic publication which is produced to support the Department's decision makers. It is also made available to the public via the internet.

The process for production of amended or new guidance in response to legislative changes is that as regulations are made available from lawyers, officials with the relevant subject expertise draft content for the DMG. Once peer reviewed, this new content is immediately issued to all the Department's decision makers, and also incorporated into the DMG, which is frequently republished.

At present there are nine officials, part of whose role includes responsibility for drafting DMG.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67154]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), meets hon. Members every day across all political parties and discusses all aspects of the Department's business. This includes appearing before Select Committees and attending meetings to discuss reform.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67177]

Chris Grayling: The current method used by this Department to process and monitor ministerial correspondence does not enable us easily to retrieve the information the hon. Gentleman seeks and there are no plans to change the IT system in use. Any changes would require additional investment. If, in the future, this system were to be updated we would look into this issue.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67573]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to him on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 239W, which was as follows:

> "In the main,. Ministers from this Department try not to refuse meetings with Members of Parliament. However, detailed information is not available other than at disproportionate costs."

DWP Ministers received over 3,000 pieces of correspondence in November 2010 from Members of Parliament and elected representatives of devolved Administrations; it is not possible to identify separately how many of these requested meetings other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was in each case. [67446]

Chris Grayling: This Department has spent a total of £3,525 on training for Ministers since May 2010. The purpose of this was for media training.

Disability Living Allowance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons recipients of disability living allowance aged over 65 years do not receive the mobility component. [67377]

Maria Miller: A claim to disability living allowance, including the mobility component, made before a person's 65th birthday, can remain in payment beyond age 65 as long as the conditions of entitlement remain satisfied, although a mobility component may not be added to an existing claim after that age.

It is normal for pensions and benefit schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Disability living allowance, which has a mobility component, is intended to focus additional help with the extra cost of disability on people who have the very considerable disadvantage of being severely disabled earlier in life and who as a consequence have less opportunity to work, earn and save compared with non-disabled people. The mobility component remains in payment beyond age 65, to reflect the ongoing disadvantage that people in these circumstances continue to have compared with people who develop mobility problems after age 65.

Disability Living Allowance: Carers

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of carers who will be subject to the proposed benefits cap because their household is not exempt as a result of a claim for disability living allowance or the personal independence payment. [67026]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for those who are both receiving carer's allowance and subject to the household benefit cap.

Disability Living Allowance: Glenrothes

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 25 to 35 years are in receipt of disability living allowance in Glenrothes constituency. [67376]

Maria Miller: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Number of disability living allowance recipients aged 25 to 35 (inclusive) in Glenrothes parliamentary constituency, November 2010

	All ages	*25 to 35*
Total	7,440	470

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Parliamentary constituency is based on the Westminster Parliament of May 2010

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Education Support Allowance: Breast Cancer

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the education support allowance assessment process and associated procedures take into account the needs of people suffering from breast cancer. [67504]

Chris Grayling: We are determined that the benefits system should support people who are diagnosed with cancer, including breast cancer, in the most sensitive, fair and appropriate way.

Following an internal review we have recently made changes to the WCA so that more individuals undergoing certain chemotherapy treatments will automatically be placed in the Support Group without the need for an assessment.

Additionally, Professor Harrington, as part of his second Independent Review asked Macmillan Cancer Support to look in detail at how the WCA assesses people with cancer and to provide him with any recommendations for further improvements.

We have recently received these recommendations from Professor Harrington. We are considering them carefully to understand whether they will improve the assessment further for individuals with cancer. We will come forward with any proposals shortly.

We will continue to review and refine the WCA to ensure that it is more effective, fairer for all claimants and as a result fairer for the taxpayer.

Employers' Liability

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of compulsory employer's liability insurance on (i) micro, (ii) small and (iii) medium-sized businesses. [67054]

Chris Grayling: Research conducted for the Health and Safety Executive in 2003 ('Survey of compliance with Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI) Act 1969' Research Report 188) indicated that less than 1% of companies had failed to take out employers' liability (compulsory) insurance (ELCI).

The survey found that 0.9% of micro firms, 0.37% of small firms and 0.6% of large sized firms lacked ELCI.

Further research was commissioned in 2009 and details of the findings will be published in due course.

Employment: Disability

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what monitoring the Office for Disability Issues has undertaken to ensure that Government Departments have implemented the agreement with his Department on access to work support for the employment and retention of disabled members of staff; and if he will publish the most recent monitoring report. [65084]

Maria Miller: Most civil service Departments do not use the Access to Work programme to provide assistance to their disabled employees and as such none of their employees should receive support from the Access to Work programme.

Instead Departments provide the funding for support and adjustments for their disabled staff.

The Office for Disability Issues does not monitor this.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had on the conclusions and recommendations of the Sayce Report on disability employment support. [65693]

Maria Miller: Since the publication of the Sayce review, "Getting in, staying in and getting on", on 9 June 2011, I have had a number of discussions on its findings.

On 20 June, I met the Minister for Care Services, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Burstow), the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes) and the Minister for Children and Families, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), for an initial discussion on the recommendations, which I accepted upon publication, to create a cross-Government group to address disability employment. I met the Remploy trade unions on 13 July and plan to meet them again. I have also met the principals of the residential training colleges to take their initial views on the report.

I confirmed, when the report was published, that the Government would consult before moving to any decisions on the future strategy for specialist disability employment programmes. The Government's response and a separate public consultation were launched on 11 July 2011. The consultation will run till 17 October 2011. A programme of consultation events is planned over the summer, involving a wide range of stakeholders.

I encourage all interested parties to use the opportunity of consultation to contribute their views to this important subject. Details of the consultation exercise can be found at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/specialist-disability-emp-prog.shtml

Alternatively the hon. Gentleman can request a copy of the consultation document by writing to the Sayce Review Consultation Team, Level 3 Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ or telephone 0114 2948239.

Employment: Older People

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist people aged over 50 who are unemployed to enter employment. [67309]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus treats jobseekers of all ages equally, and in 2010 we delivered new training to advisers to enhance the support they can offer to claimants who are aged 50 or over. Older jobseekers have the same access to a comprehensive menu of individually tailored help as those under 50 (apart from the specific options for jobseekers aged under 25). Support is tailored to the individual needs of each jobseeker, including help with work-related training and job-search support. Older jobseekers who are eligible can also access Get Britain Working measures, such as Work Clubs, Work Together, and the new enterprise allowance for individuals who are looking to become self-employed.

The newly launched Work Programme will also provide support for those who are more at risk of long-term unemployment. Work Programme providers are free to innovate and design support based on the needs of individuals, and will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment. All jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance and pension credit claimants can access the Work Programme at a time that is right for them.

Employment: Travel Costs

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that people not claiming benefits are responsible for the travel costs of seeking employment. [67503]

Chris Grayling: For people receiving working age benefits, help with the additional travel costs arising from work search is available. In certain circumstances such help may also be available to people not in receipt of benefit, at the discretion of the personal adviser.

Employment: Young People

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to support young people into work. [67071]

Chris Grayling: Work Experience and Apprenticeships are central to improving the prospects of young unemployed people.

We are funding an additional 80,000 placements meaning that there will be up to 100,000 placements available for young people to undertake a period of valuable Work Experience lasting between two and eight weeks. Claimants in the 18 to 24 age group are eligible for Work Experience and we recently announced the widening of eligibility to include 16 and 17-year-olds in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

The Government are funding up to 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years and we are strengthening the links between Work Experience and Apprenticeships. Later this year Work Experience placements will be extended by up to four weeks where employers make a firm offer of an Apprenticeship and that offer is accepted.

We have improved our package of support to provide earlier entry to the Work Programme for more vulnerable young people and are providing additional Jobcentre Plus help for 16 and 17-year-old jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Families Against Corporate Killers

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange a meeting with representatives of Families Against Corporate Killers. [67639]

Chris Grayling: Department for Work and Pensions Ministers will consider meeting requests from stakeholders, including Families Against Corporate Killers, as diary commitments allow.

Housing Benefit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential effect of his proposed household benefits cap on the Homelessness Prevention Service run by Edinburgh Cyrenians. [66680]

Chris Grayling: The benefit cap will mean that people on benefit will face choices about housing costs similar to those faced by people in work. But it will not necessarily mean that they will need to move from their home. Even within the limits of this cap, households will still be able to receive significant amounts of financial assistance from state welfare payments and if a member of the household moves into work and becomes eligible for working tax credit they will be exempt from the impacts of the cap.

There is a range of help local authorities can offer to households at risk of becoming homeless including the provision of discretionary housing payments. We have already made an additional £190 million available over the spending review period for this purpose as a result of the changes we have made to housing benefit.

The Government published their impact assessment of the benefit cap in February alongside the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill.

This made it clear that the assessment sought is not possible to estimate because this would have to be based on behavioural changes

The impact assessment can be found via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Industrial Accidents

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W, on industrial accidents, if he will assess the effects of *(a)* proactive workplace inspections and *(b)* incident inspections on the behaviour of employers and employees. [67025]

Chris Grayling: Proactive activity (of which workplace inspections are a part) and incident follow-up inspections are both important functions of HSE. Their impact on the behaviour of employers and employees however cannot be reliably distinguished from the impact of other functions, noticeably the success of employer and employees in operating an effective and proportionate health and safety system in the workplace.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which health and safety stakeholders and representative groups the Minister for Employment has met since the launch of the Good health and safety, Good for everyone strategy on 21 March 2011; and on how many occasions. [67690]

Chris Grayling: Since the launch of the Good health and safety, Good for everyone strategy on 21 March, I have met with the following stakeholders and representative groups, on one occasion each, to discuss health and safety issues:

Chemicals Industries Association
Engineering Employers' Federation
Confederation of British Industry
Alliance of Industry Associations
National Farmer's Union
Environmental Services Association
UK Contractors Group
Trades Union Congress
Association of British Insurers
Zurich
British Chambers of Commerce
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
The Law Society.

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers who have fewer than three employees were prosecuted under health and safety legislation in the last 12 months. [66483]

Chris Grayling: HSE does not hold prosecution data at this level of detail.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many health and safety prosecutions there were in the last 12 months; and how many of these followed a serious illness or accident involving *(a)* customers and *(b)* employees. [66484]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the Health and Safety Executive completed 518 prosecutions. This figure is based on current information in advance of the release of official statistics for this period in October 2011.

It is not possible to sub-divide this figure to provide the information in the form requested in the second part of the question.

New Enterprise Allowance

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the New Enterprise Allowance National Rollout scheme. [67060]

Chris Grayling: The rollout of the NEA across Great Britain is progressing well and is on schedule to be completed during August.

Pensioners: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London living in social housing in the latest period for which figures are available. [65565]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The requested data are not available for the London borough of Bexley.

There were an estimated 149,000 households with a householder of pensionable age, that is aged 65 or over if male, or aged 60 or over if female, living in social housing in London in 2009-10. This estimate is based on data from the 2009-10 English Housing Survey.

Poverty: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of child poverty in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66354]

Maria Miller: This information is not available.

Modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in overall child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13; however, given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may be on the edge of statistical significance. This analysis has not been carried out separately for those in rural communities.

The most recent estimates of rural child poverty are presented as follows. Due to different definitions of rurality in Scotland compared to England and Wales, and the fact that no information is collected on the family resources survey covering rurality in Northern Ireland, it has not been possible to present figures for the United Kingdom as a whole. This also means that the figures supplied for Scotland are not comparable with the other figures presented. For Wales and Scotland, three years of data have had to be combined due to small sample size.

The latest data available from the households below average incomes for 2009-10 shows that in England, before housing costs, the proportion of children in relative poverty is 15% in rural areas compared with 20% in urban areas.

The latest data available from the households below average incomes for 2007-08 to 2009-10 show that in Wales, before housing costs, the proportion of children in relative poverty is 21% in rural areas compared to 28% in urban areas.

The latest data available from the households below average incomes for 2009-10 show that in England and Wales, before housing costs, the proportion of children in relative poverty is 16% in rural areas compared to 20% in urban areas.

The latest data available from the households below average incomes for 2007-08 to 2009-10 show that in Scotland, before housing costs, the proportion of children in relative poverty is 16% in rural areas compared to 21% in urban areas.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 family resources survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

3. Figures have been presented on a before housing costs basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.

4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.

6. Proportions of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

7. Three survey years have been combined for Scotland and Wales because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

8. Due to different definitions of rurality in Scotland compared to England and Wales, and the fact that no information is collected on the family resources survey covering rurality in Northern Ireland, it has not been possible to present figures for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67145]

Chris Grayling: Officials in the Department for Work and Pensions have a number of discussions ongoing with counterparts in the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, including the Rural Communities Policy Unit, regarding employment, skills, Jobcentre Plus services and priorities for older people living in rural communities.

Social Security Benefits

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential impact on third sector projects of introducing a household benefits cap. [66316]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made no assessment of the potential impact on third sector projects of introducing a household benefits cap.

The benefit cap is intended to increase incentives to work and when someone starts employment and becomes eligible for working tax credit they will be exempt from the cap. We are putting in place the Work programme, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace.

We expect a broad range of Work programme support to be delivered by a broad mix of organisations, including those from the third sector, so that everyone who enters the Work programme gets the right mix of help for them.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in each nation of the UK are in receipt of each type of welfare or employment benefit. [66741]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Benefit claimants by country in Great Britain: latest figures

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Income Support—November 2010	1,509,170	175,010	103,430
Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)—June 2011	122,222	140,557	71,594
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance—November 2010	1,654,130	221,560	146,450
Employment and Support Allowance—November 2010	493,710	60,430	39,440
State Pension—November 2010	9,776,260	1,009,040	636,200
Pension Credit—November 2010	2,279,540	274,790	162,690
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)—November 2010	2,591,970	343,210	242,350
Attendance Allowance (AA)—November 2010	1,364,810	146,930	114,210
Carer's Allowance (CA)—November 2010	472,980	49,870	35,440
Bereavement Benefits—November 2010	50,390	6,030	3,140
Widow's Benefits—November 2010	35,980	4,610	2,330
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit—September 2010	7,780	970	870
Housing Benefit—April 2011	4,141,230	472,450	242,470
Council Tax Benefit—April 2011	4,943,110	561,360	324,110
Winter Fuel Payments—2009-10	10,810,140	1,105,760	694,200
Maternity Allowance (MA)—1 September 2010 to 30 November 2010	15,200	1,300	800

Notes:

1. MA is based on a 5% sample and therefore subject to sampling variation, all other figures are based on 100% data.
2. MA figures are rounded to the nearest 100, JSA are unrounded with all other figures rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures are based on the timepoint listed.
4. JSA figures are based on claimant count figures and are available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
All other figures are available on the Department's website at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
5. DLA, AA, and CA figures are based on people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
6. Incapacity benefit was replaced for new claims with employment and support allowance in October 2008.
7. Widow's benefits include widow's pension and widowed mother's allowance. All claimants of widow's benefits are female. No new claims for widow's benefits have been accepted since April 2001 when they were replaced by bereavement benefits.
8. Bereavement benefits include bereavement allowance and widowed parent's allowance.
9. Housing benefit/council tax benefit refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
10. Winter fuel payments data refer to the final payment run, i.e. they include the late payment run figures.
11. Northern Ireland: DWP does not hold statistics for Northern Ireland residents. These may be obtained from the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland website.

Sources:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
Jobcentre Plus computer systems.
Single Housing Benefit Extract.
DWP Information Directorate 5% samples.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department was of administering benefits in respect of each nation of the UK in the last financial year for which figures are available. [66742]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	£ million
Total DWP 2010-11 administrative expenditure	5,866
England	4,772
Wales	340
Scotland	549
Northern Ireland	0
Outside UK	204

Source:
DWP Resource Accounts 2010/11 and DWP statistical and accounting data.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of families receiving benefit entitlements in the UK who also receive benefits from another EU member state due to the social insurance contributions of a partner working in that member state. [67370]

Chris Grayling: Migrant workers within Europe may receive benefits from more than one member state. This is a consequence of the European rules on social security co-ordination. These rules cover benefits for old age, survivors, invalidity, unemployment, industrial injury and prescribed diseases, sickness, maternity, and family.

If someone makes a claim to a UK benefit, we ask them to provide details of any relevant income and that might include details of foreign contributory benefits received by members of the family. We use that information to assess their entitlement to UK benefits. However, we do not keep a separate record of such information and are not able to estimate the number of partners who may be receiving a contributory benefit across the range of social security benefits.

Third Sector

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which charities and voluntary organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67448]

Chris Grayling: DWP Ministers have visited the following charities and voluntary organisations since 12 May 2010:

Minister	*Date*	*Organisation*	*Location*
Secretary of State	30 July 2010	Bromley By Bow Centre	London
	2 September 2010	Stepping Stones	Belfast
	22 September 2010	Forth Sector	Edinburgh
	30 September 2010	Our Place at Work	Ellesmere Port
	18 November 2010	Victory Outreach	Gwent

Minister	*Date*	*Organisation*	*Location*
	10 February 2011	New Lanark World Heritage Site	South Lanarkshire
		Robert Owen Institute	Motherwell
	17 March 2011	Toynbee Hall	London
	7 March 2011	Clockwise Credit Union	Leicester
	25 March 2011	Amber	Devon
	1 April 2011	Forth Sector	Edinburgh
	6 April 2011	Oakwood Youth Challenge	Wokingham
	12 July 2011	Working Links	Caerphilly
		Tydfil Training Consulting Ltd	Pontypridd
Minister for Disabled People	16 June 2010	Breakthrough UK	Manchester
	17 June 2010	Barnet Carers Centre	Barnet
	30 June 2010	Access to Work	London SE1
	13 July 2010	Project Search Site	Colney, Norwich
		Norse Commercial Services	Norwich
	20 July 2010	Essex Coalition of Disabled People	Chelmsford
	25 August 2010	Remploy	Coventry
	23 September 2010	Bsafe Centre	Blackpool
		Independent Living Centre	Blackpool
	26 October 2010	St Mungo's (two centres)	London
	16 November 2010	Social Firms	Dorking
	1 December 2010	Apasenth	London
	13 December 2010	Newham Coalition of Disabled People	London
	25 January 2011	Leonard Cheshire Care Home	Rustington, Littlehampton
	8 February 2011	St Agnes Leonard Cheshire Care Home	Banbury, Oxfordshire
	17 February 2011	Holly Croft Care Home	Biggleswade
	22 February 2011	Onkar Care Home	Leicester
		Relate	Doncaster
	17 March 2011	New Life Centre for Disabled Children	Cannock
	29 June 2011	MENCAP Employment Services	Wallington
	30 June 2011	Action for Children's Centre	Ashington
		Finchale Residential Training College	Finchale
Minister for Welfare Reform	11 August 2010	Shaw Trust	Trowbridge, Wilts
	29 October 2010	Ley Community	Yarnton, Oxfordshire
	26 November 2010	Scottish Association for Mental Health	Edinburgh
		Redhall	Edinburgh
	25 January 2011	East London Housing Partnership	Olympic Site E10
	4 March 2011	North City Training, Dunanney Centre	Rathcoole NI
		Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road	Belfast NI
		New Life Counselling Steps to Work	Belfast NI
	28 June 2011	Centrepoint	London
Minister for Employment	3 August 2010	Working Links	London
	21 September 2010	Bron Afon Community House	Cwmbran
		Rhondda Life Ltd	Ferndale
	11 October 2010	Community Restart	Burnley
		Cornerstone	Aberdeen
	28 October 2010	Wise Group	Glasgow
	3 November 2010	Stepping Stones	Belfast
		Springvale Training	Belfast
	11 November 2010	Youth Charter	Manchester
	31 January 2011	St Helens Chamber of Commerce	St Helens
	10 February 2011	Rethink	London

Minister	*Date*	*Organisation*	*Location*
	1 April 2011	Action Acton	Acton, London
		Prospect Training	Gloucester
	29 June 2011	Salvation Army	Ipswich
	12 July 2011	Papworth Trust	Wellingborough
	15 July 2011	Shaw Trust	Stafford
Minister for Pensions	12 July 2010	Age UK	House of Commons, London
	5 August 2010	London Older Peoples Assembly	London
	29 September 2010	Carers Advice and Resource Establishment (CARES)	Smethwick, Birmingham
	30 September 2010	Extra Time—a programme for older people run by Bristol Rovers FC	Horfield, Bristol
	6 October 2010	Trinity Community Centre	Gateshead
	12 October 2010	Age Concern Hampshire	Winchester
	10 February 2011	Digital Inclusion	Worksop
	1 March 2011	South West Seniors Forum	Taunton
	30 March 2011	West Midlands Life Forum	Birmingham
	24 May 2011	The Pensions Advisory Service	London

Universal Credit

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with housing associations on the effects on their tenants of the proposed introduction of universal credit. [65683]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions have direct discussions on universal credit, and the housing element of universal credit, with a range of stakeholder groups including housing associations.

We have also said that there are advantages in paying the housing component to individuals, but we also recognise the importance of stable rental income for social landlords. We are considering a range of options for achieving this, such as the use of direct debits and other protection mechanisms which could safeguard landlords' incomes. Moreover, we are retaining a facility in universal credit for direct payments to landlords.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether his Department has made an estimate of the *(a)* cost of ending existing commercial housing benefit contracts as a result of the introduction of universal credit and *(b)* cost of paying compensation to (i) local authorities, (ii) housing associations and (iii) contractors for early extension; [67067]

(2) how many housing benefit staff employed by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* contractors are expected to transfer to his Department under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations to administer universal credit. [67069]

Steve Webb: The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. It also states that we will continue to pay housing benefit to working age customers until we can migrate them successfully on to universal credit, currently expected to be by October 2017. We have yet to settle on the precise details of how the transition will work, and the effects on housing benefits staff. This approach will ensure an orderly transition, and ensure that we have people with relevant skills and experience to support claimants both in work and out of work, as they migrate to the new credit.

We will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money. This work will also confirm whether and how TUPE will apply for those staff affected in all organisations.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made any assessment of *(a)* the number of housing benefit staff who may be made redundant under his proposals to introduce universal credit and *(b)* the cost to (i) local authorities, (ii) housing associations and (iii) contractors of such redundancies. [67068]

Steve Webb: It is still too early to say how many staff, and what skills and experience will be required for universal credit. Decisions about TUPE and redundancy cannot be made until there is much more definition around the specific roles required to deliver the new universal credit. Although it is anticipated that fewer staff will be required compared with the legacy benefits, it is too early to say which staff and organisations will be affected. The impact on local authority staff will be affected by the design of the council tax benefit replacement, and decisions about the delivery model for universal credit.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the assets and systems used to provide the housing benefit service will transfer from local authorities, housing associations and contractors to his Department under his proposals for universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [67070]

Steve Webb: The systems and processes for universal credit are still under development and the requirements will depend on future delivery options. As many local authorities use the same assets and systems to provide council tax and housing benefit, decisions about the assets and systems cannot be made until the future design of the council tax benefit is known.

Universal Credit: Carers

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of carers in receipt of means-tested benefits who will be ineligible for an earnings disregard when they move onto or begin to claim universal credit. [67027]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that, in steady-state universal credit, approximately 20% of households with a carer who would have received means-tested support under a continuation of the current system of benefits and tax credits, would not be eligible for an earnings disregard in universal credit.

Universal credit modelling is conducted using the Department's' Policy Simulation Model. This is a static microsimulation model based on 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data and, as such, estimates should be treated as indicative only. Estimates have been adjusted to take account of the current imperfect take-up of benefits and the improved take-up rate under universal credit. Carer households are defined as those where an adult is providing informal care for 35 or more hours a week.

Universal Credit: Free School Meals

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost implications for schools of administering free school meals under the universal credit. [67034]

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of administrative costs for schools administering free school meals under the universal credit. [67066]

Chris Grayling: Defining entitlement to certain passported benefits is the responsibility of other Departments and devolved Administrations. Free school meals are the responsibility of the Department for Education.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) have been commissioned to carry out an independent review on passported benefits on behalf of the Government and will present advice in a non-binding report by the end of January 2012.

The SSAC launched a public consultation looking at passported benefits which is open until 22 July.

Work Capability Assessment

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on work capability assessment tests for people diagnosed with a progressive condition. [66731]

Chris Grayling: The work capability assessment (WCA) is an assessment of an individual's functional capability. It focuses on the effects of a person's condition, not their diagnosis, as individuals can be affected in very different ways by the same condition.

In assessing individuals with a progressive condition, the WCA will take into account the effects of their condition on their capability for work, including the likely speed of progression. Individuals who are allowed the benefit will be reassessed at regular intervals to see if they still meet the conditions for entitlement. Any changes in their condition and resultant changes in their capability for work will be picked up at this time.

Work Capability Assessment: Illnesses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will amend his Department's ESA50 questionnaire to include specific questions on whether the respondent is suffering from a terminal illness. [67691]

Chris Grayling: We aim to treat people with terminal illness (defined as less than six months to live) sensitively and to ensure they are allowed the additional support of the Support Group as quickly as possible, without the need for a face-to-face assessment. To do this, employment and support allowance has special rules that ensure individuals who claim the benefit because they are terminally ill do not have to fill out an ESA50 questionnaire or attend a face-to-face assessment; instead, in the vast majority of cases, they are placed in the Support Group on the basis of medical evidence from their general practitioner or treating health care professional.

Such medical evidence is usually provided in the form of a DS1500. If further clarification or evidence is deemed necessary, requests are normally made direct to the general practitioner or treating health care professional. As a result, we do not intend to modify the ESA50 questionnaire to include specific questions about terminal illness.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are any circumstances in which a terminally ill person in possession of a DS1500 form and migrating from incapacity benefit to employment support allowance would be required to undergo a work capability assessment. [67692]

Chris Grayling: Anyone who claims employment and support allowance because they are terminally ill and they meet the criteria for terminal illness (that they have less than six months to live), such as through evidence on a DS1500 form, will not be required to undertake a face-to-face assessment. Instead they will be fast tracked into the Support Group where they will receive unconditional support.

Individuals who do not meet the criteria for terminal illness may have to undergo a face-to-face assessment.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to maintain security levels in Afghanistan during the transfer of combat duties to Afghan security forces in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [66306]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The transfer of lead security responsibility across Afghanistan to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) is a process that will be complete by the end of 2014. As this process continues, coalition forces, along with Afghan forces, will continue operations to protect the population and degrade the insurgent threat.

We are confident that, by the end of 2014, the ANSF will be capable of preventing terrorist organisations from again using Afghanistan as a base from which to threaten the UK's national security.

Aircraft Carriers: Fuels

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to page 36 of the National Audit Office's report on Carrier Strike, HC 1092, what his policy is on the conclusions in respect of air-to-air refuelling. [66985]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Work is under way to assess the most cost-effective means of providing an embarked air-to-air refuelling capability in support of the Department's future Carrier Strike capability.

We anticipate completing this work by March 2012 and will use its output to inform future decisions on the Carrier Strike programme.

Armed Forces

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens of each Commonwealth country have *(a)* applied to enlist and *(b)* enlisted in the armed forces in the latest year for which figures are available. [67080]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The information requested is provided in the following table. Please note that a direct correlation should not be drawn between the applicant and entrant figures; those listed as entrants may have applied in a previous year while those applying in the period given may not have entered the services until a later date or at all.

2010-11

	Naval Service applications	*Naval Service entrants*	*Army applications*	*Army entrants*	*RAF applications*	*RAF entrants*
Antigua	1	—	1	1	—	—
Australia	16	4	11	3	1	—
Bahamas	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	1	—	7	1	1	—
Barbados	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bermuda	—	—	1	—	—	—
Botswana	—	—	2	2	—	—
Cameroon	1	—	19	6	—	—
Canada	15	3	7	3	—	—
Cyprus	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dominica	7	—	—	3	—	—
Fiji	60	13	58	30	1	—
Gambia	20	2	60	34	—	—
Ghana	14	—	143	65	1	—
Grenada	8	—	8	3	—	—
Guyana	2	1	—	3	—	—
India	12	—	54	14	1	—
Jamaica	22	1	32	15	2	—
Kenya	9	3	34	28	1	—
Malawi	1	1	26	24	—	—
Malaysia	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malta	—	—	3	2	—	—
Mauritius	1	—	8	7	1	—
New Zealand	8	4	13	9	—	—
Namibia	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nigeria	36	2	71	24	1	1
Pakistan	6	—	8	2	—	—
Papua New Guinea	—	—	1	1	—	—
Rwanda	1	—	1	—	—	—
Seychelles	1	—	4	2	—	—
Sierra Leone	—	1	7	5	—	—
South Africa	78	29	85	69	3	—
Sri Lanka	4	—	3	2	2	1
St Helena	—	—	1	2	—	—
St Lucia	3	—	11	3	1	—
St Vincent	64	9	18	4	—	—
Swaziland	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tanzania	1	—	4	3	—	—
Trinidad	10	1	2	—	2	—
Uganda	5	—	16	8	1	—

2010-11

	Naval Service applications	Naval Service, entrants	Army applications	Army entrants	RAF applications	RAF entrants
Zambia	6	1	—	4	—	—
Zimbabwe	28	3	—	8	3	—

Armed Forces: Animals

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animal mascots there are in the armed forces; and what their cost is. [67369]

Mr Robathan: There are a number of mascots in the armed forces, some of which are official, and thus attract a certain level of official funding to cover accommodation, movement, quarantine, veterinary services, bedding and rations. Other, unofficial mascots are maintained through private unit funds.

Neither the Royal Navy nor the Royal Air Force has any official mascots. The Army has a total of 10 official mascots.

Information related to the cost of maintaining these animals is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Children

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* name and *(b)* budget is of each scheme under which his Department mentors service children; [66297]

(2) what the *(a)* name and *(b)* budget is of each scheme under which his Department makes provision for service children. [66298]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence provides support networks and other related funding for support to families such as Hives, nursery provision, access to sports facilities, welfare, pastoral and other support services. It is not possible however to break down further the families funding that is specific to service children.

The following table identifies specific provision for service children:

Provision	*Cost (£)*
Service children's education	[1]121 million
Continuity of education allowance	[2]181 million
Bereavement scholarship grant	[3]182,000
School children's visits	[4]—

[1] Operating cost for financial year 2009-10

[2] Financial year 2010-11.

[3] Academic year 2010-11.

[4] Information is not held in the format requested.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average payment of continuity education allowance was in respect of children of personnel at each service rank in the latest period for which figures are available. [66299]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The average amount of children's education allowance (CEA) paid to each rank, irrespective of the number of children, for financial year 2010-11 can be found in the following table:

Army rank or equivalent	*Average CEA claimed by personnel in financial year 2010-11 (£000)*
Lieutenant/Second lieutenant	11.7
Captain	18.3
Major	20.0
Lieutenant colonel	23.2
Colonel	24.4
Brigadier	24.2
Major general	22.3
Lieutenant general	14.0
General	7.6
Private	13.6
Lance corporal (applicable to army only)	12.3
Corporal	13.4
Sergeant	15.5
Staff sergeant	16.0
Warrant officer 2	15.9
Warrant officer 1	17.5

Rounding has been applied to all figures. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

The averages shown do not include the tax and national insurance payable by the Ministry of Defence to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs against CEA as these cannot be attributed to individual claims.

Armed Forces: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties have been assessed at the EcoHomes06 standard of *(a)* pass, *(b)* good, *(c)* very good and *(d)* excellent. [65824]

Mr Robathan: An EcoHomes06 assessment for recently completed service family accommodation upgrade projects at Putney and Chicksands has been undertaken. All 180 properties achieved a 'pass' rating.

The EcoHomes06 assessment uses environmental factors outside the control of this Department, and there will be locations where the highest rating is impractical to achieve.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the disused service married quarters in and around St Nicholas Avenue, Gosport. [66893]

Mr Robathan: There are 87 service homes on the Shackleton road and St Nicholas Avenue estate which are surplus to future Defence requirements. These properties are due to be returned to Annington Homes Ltd in November 2011.

The future use of these properties will then become a matter for the company.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 45W, on armed forces: injuries, what proportion of Defence Science and Technology Laboratory research has been published in scientific peer-reviewed journals in each of the last five years; and what the name is of each project that has resulted in the publication of research in such journals. [66961]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Wherever possible, the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), publishes the results of its research programme in open scientific peer reviewed journals.

We do not hold data which shows what proportion of DSTL's research has been published in scientific peer reviewed journals in each of the last five years; however, the following table shows the number of items published in the years in question, all of which have arisen from the combat casualty care project.

	Number
2006	2
2007	6
2008	5
2009	1
2010	4
2011	7

These 25 items consist of publications, conference papers and theses.

Armed Forces: Offenders

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former offenders have enlisted in the armed forces in each year since 2001. [67081]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* This information is not held. The armed forces adhere to the requirements of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that if a certain period of time has passed since the date on which the individual was convicted, the conviction becomes 'spent' and there is no requirement for this offence to be declared or recorded.

Armed Forces: Royal Household

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are attached to the Royal Household; and at what cost. [67368]

Mr Robathan: In order to provide service knowledge and assistance to six members of the royal family in their service appointments, 13 members of the armed forces are permanently attached to the royal household at a total cost of approximately £960,000 per annum.

Armed Forces: Training

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of recruits enlisting in the armed forces below the age of 18 years attended the Army Foundation College Harrogate in the latest period for which figures are available. [66214]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The percentage of recruits below the age of 18 years attending the Army Foundation College, Harrogate for the last seven years are shown in the following table:

Recruits

	Percentage
2010-11	55
2009-10	40
2008-09	34
2007-08	32
2006-07	26
2005-06	26
2004-05	26

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the range of recognised, transferable civilian academic and vocational qualifications studied by recruits at the Army Foundation College Harrogate in the latest period for which figures are available. [66215]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Army Foundation College, Harrogate (AFC(H)) provides vocational apprenticeship training for recruits under the age of 18, to prepare them for their future military careers.

All recruits at the AFC(H) enrol on a level 2 apprenticeship for IT users which provides a level 2 iTQ diploma for IT users. They also undertake functional skills in English and maths at level 1. Recruits may also undertake the European Computer Driving Licence, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the St John's First Aid Award.

At the end of the 50-week course, recruits will have acquired a number of vocational skills which will furnish them to progress in their military careers.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of 16-year-old recruits training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate gained five or more GCSEs during training in each of the last 10 years; in which subjects such qualifications were awarded in each such year; and how many such qualifications were awarded at grade C or above in each such year. [66216]

Mr Robathan: The Army Foundation College, Harrogate (AFC(H)) provides a non-academic, vocational apprenticeship. GCSEs are not undertaken at the AFC(H).

Recruits who do not already have GCSEs are provided with functional skills in English and maths to a sufficient standard to enable them to progress through their military careers.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the legal advice his Department has received on the minimum terms of service *(a)* for recruits who enlist in the Army below the age of 18 years *(b)* for adult recruits in the Army and *(c)* for minors in the RAF and Royal Navy. [66183]

Mr Robathan: Internal legal advice on this issue constitutes part of normal policy development work within the Department, which is an ongoing process, and is not generally released. The provisions are longstanding and I can confirm that no legal advice on the development of the provisions has been given in recent years. However, we are satisfied that there is no legal difficulty with any disparity between differing terms of service in the three services or between different age groups. Individuals join a single service of their choosing, not the armed forces generally, and each service has different operational requirements. Depending upon which service a recruit has chosen they must abide by its requirements in relation to terms of engagement.

Defence: Procurement

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent with *(a)* EDS Defence and *(b)* Aegis Defence Services in each year from 1997 to 2010. [66642]

Peter Luff: Payments made by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to EDS Defence Ltd and Aegis Defence Services since 1998-99 are shown in the following tables (information for 1997-98 is no longer available):

Financial year	*Payments to EDS Defence Ltd (£ million)*
1998-99	141
1999-2000	116
2000-01	118
2001-02	144
2002-03	179
2003-04	181
2004-05	201
2005-06	336
2006-07	570
2007-08	634
2008-09	775
2009-10	818
2010-11	783

Financial year	*Payments to Aegis Defence Services (£)*
1998-99 to 2007-08	Nil
2008-09	5,000
2009-10	6,000
2010-11	1,000

Figures are at current prices and exclude VAT.

The payments reported have been extracted from the MOD's central contracts database on which is recorded the majority (about 95%) of all MOD payments. Payments not processed centrally are not included and may have been made on behalf of other Government Departments, by the MOD's Trading Funds and Executive Non-Departmental Bodies (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary), locally by the Department, through third parties such as prime contractors or other Government Departments and in relation to collaborative, projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas Governments.

From 2004-05, the individual subsidiaries and joint ventures relating to EDS Defence Ltd have been reproduced from the corporate structures published in Table 1.17a of UK Defence Statistics. We have used the Hewlett Packard corporate structure for 2008-09 onwards following their take over of EDS. When this occurs during the financial year, annual payments are recorded against the company taking ownership of the contract.

Figures before 2004-05 may not reflect the full holding company structure for EDS Defence Ltd owing to data limitations.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* supplies have been procured through urgent operational requirements since the conclusion of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; [66682]

(2) which *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* suppliers have fulfilled an urgent operational requirement since the conclusion of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [66683]

Peter Luff: Since October 2010, a range of equipments have been procured as urgent operational requirements (UORs). These UORs cover a broad spectrum of capabilities including: military working dogs complete with their specialist requirements (health, welfare, protection and veterinary needs); improved service recovery vehicle (protected mobility); increased aero medical capacity; improved helicopter engines; counter-improvised explosive device task force uplift; improved digital mapping and aircraft protection systems. The contracts have been placed with a number of companies, including BAES, Agusta Westland, MP Aerospace, Guartel, SELEX, WA Products, Rolls Royce, Honeywell and Thales Air Defence Ltd.

Specific details of the UORs are being withheld, as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what urgent operational requirements are currently outstanding; and when he expects them to be delivered. [66703]

Peter Luff: As at 15 July 2011, there were 213 urgent operational requirement (UOR) projects that have been approved, and have yet to be delivered to theatre. They mainly fall into four broad categories: counter improvised explosive device systems (detection and defeating the device); improved protected mobility (for example, the foxhound vehicles); information management and information exploitation systems; and base protection intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) systems. The Ministry of Defence undertakes to deliver all UORs to theatre as quickly as possible, usually within 12-18 months, however, some procurements take only a matter of weeks.

Specific details of the UORs and delivery time scales are being withheld as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66760]

Mr Robathan: Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) delivered a reduction of 14.8% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government Commitments, we are now committed to deliver a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2014-15.

It is estimated that from the office estate for June 2010, MOD's non-weather corrected emissions amounted to some 4,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The MOD is still collating and validating its emission data for June 2011. This will include emissions from its operational estate as well as its office estate.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66324]

Mr Robathan: In the period May 2010 to May 2011 (inclusive), a total of 1,560 new staff were recruited by the Department while a total of 520 staff left, either voluntarily or compulsorily, on grounds of early release or redundancy. It should be noted that this recruitment figure excludes inward transfers or loans from other Departments which totalled some 430. Similarly, the figure provided above for early releases and redundancies ignores the 5,610 staff who left for other reasons during the same period.

During this period 13 staff have been recruited by the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)—six by the National Museum of the Royal Navy and seven by the National Army Museum. There have been no redundancies among the NDPBs since May 2010.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61728]

Mr Robathan: The Oil and Pipelines Agency estimates that it may incur redundancy costs in the order of £40,000 to £55,000 in 2011-12. This results from management restructuring to improve the agency's operational effectiveness. The agency has no further plans, at present, for further redundancies across the comprehensive spending review period.

There are otherwise no estimates of redundancy costs for the Ministry of Defence's non-departmental bodies as decisions on the level of staff support to be provided to them in the future have yet to be made. The current voluntary early release scheme for civilians, where applicable to non-departmental bodies, is intended to avoid the need for redundancies, the required staff reductions being achieved through early release schemes and natural wastage as far as possible.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66337]

Mr Robathan: The costs of exit packages, which include both voluntary and compulsory paid releases, appear in the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Annual Report and Accounts (ARA), and in the separate ARAs for the Department's Trading Funds. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence made a statement to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 70WS, publishing the MOD's ARAs for 2011.

There have been no redundancies among the Department's non-departmental public bodies since May 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67170]

Dr Fox: I meet regularly with Members of both Houses.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what statistical data his Department has ceased to collect in the last year; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63668]

Mr Robathan: In the 12 months to 30 June 2011 the Ministry of Defence has not ceased to collect any data used in the production of national or official statistics publications.

Future Rapid Effect System

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the Future Rapid Effect System project has been to date; what estimate he has made of the final cost; and what assessment he has made of the operational capability of vehicles fitted with such a system. [66687]

Peter Luff: The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) programme has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent programmes: the specialist vehicle programme (including the scout vehicle), the utility vehicle programme, and the manoeuvre support vehicle programme.

Expenditure to 31 March 2011, the most recent date for which figures are available, for the specialist vehicles and utility vehicles programmes totals £320 million. There has been no expenditure on the manoeuvre support vehicles programme.

The total estimated programme costs cannot be confirmed until their respective main investment decisions have been made.

The purpose of the specialist vehicles and utility vehicles programmes is to deliver a fleet of armoured vehicles as opposed to being programmes that deliver vehicle sub-systems.

Global Combat Ship

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* India, *(b)* Brazil, *(c)* New Zealand and *(d)* Australia on the development of the Global Combat Ship; and if he will make a statement. [67063]

Peter Luff: Government officials are discussing the Global Combat Ship concept with a number of potential international partners in order to explore opportunities for partnership to improve interoperability, provide benefits of technology transfer, economies of scale and reduce through-life costs.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of investigations conducted by his Department on the wearing of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [66205]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held.

However, my officials, and indeed officials within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who are the Government lead on foreign awards, have carried out a considerable amount of work on this matter since 2006, including as part of the current military medal review.

Military Decoration

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* position is of each member of the committee of the Hydrographic Department of his Department which makes recommendations for the award of the Polar Medal. [65899]

Mr Robathan: The Polar Medal Assessment Committee consists of a Chairman, Rear Admiral Nicholas Richard Lambert, UK National Hydrographer and Deputy Chief Executive (Hydrography), and a Secretary, Captain Stuart Lawrence MBE RD RND.

Met Office

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the Met Office in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many people the Met Office employed *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* 10 years prior to that date. [66838]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office is a trading fund and provides weather and climate services under contract to a range of Government and commercial customers. In 2010-11, revenue from these services, including maintenance of the underpinning infrastructure, amounted to £196.1 million, of which £157.4 million was from Government customers. The Met Office returned a dividend of £8.2 million to the Ministry of Defence in relation to this period.

There were 1,859 staff employed at the Met Office at 31 March 2011 compared with 2,114 at 31 March 2001; both figures are expressed as full-time equivalents.

Military Police

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military personnel of each rank and *(b)* non-military personnel of each grade serve in the (i) Royal Military Police, (ii) Royal Air Force Police, (iii) Royal Navy Police and (iv) Service Police Crime Bureau. [65071]

Mr Robathan: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Bridget Phillipson:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Questions on 14 July 2011 (Official Report, column 431W), about numbers of military personnel and civilian staff serving in support of the Royal Military Police, Royal Air Force Police and Service Police Crime Bureau.

I have placed details of the established strength and their associated location in the Library of the House.

National Security Adviser

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since the creation of the National Security Council. [67354]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I meet regularly with the National Security Adviser including at weekly meetings of the National Security Council and at Cabinet.

A complete list of all such occasions is not held.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Nimrod Airworthiness Review Team report published in 1998. [63717]

Dr Fox: A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of the House once the necessary redactions have been made in accordance with usual Data Protection Act 1998 and other legislative obligations.

Old Drill Hall Weymouth

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received legal advice on his Department's title to the Old Drill Hall, Weymouth prior to its sale by his Department. [66853]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The sale of the Old Drill Hall Weymouth took place in 1994, at which time the Ministry of Defence took legal advice from the in-house team known as the Government Property Lawyers.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of *(a)* the costs of and *(b)* savings from his Department's redundancy programme over the next five years. [66949]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The final costs and savings from redundancies will depend on a number of factors, including the level of natural wastage, salary, rank/grade and length of service of personnel selected. Estimates of the levels of savings can only be provided for the next four years, as planning data beyond those years do not give the sufficient level of detail.

The current assessment is that around 11,000 service personnel will be made redundant, from the total drawdown of around 17,000, at a cost of around £600-700 million. The service redundancy programme will take place over four years, although the majority will leave the service in 2012 and 2013. The estimated savings from service personnel pay costs from as a result of all reductions (including natural wastage) is £2.4 billion over financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15, though there will be enduring savings thereafter.

The current estimate of the cost of reducing the number of civil servants is around £580 million over three years to achieve a proportion of the 25,000 civil service personnel reductions detailed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The estimated savings from civilian pay costs as a result of these reductions (including early release and natural wastage) is £0.9 billion over financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15, with enduring savings thereafter.

Sri Lanka

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when his recent visit to Sri Lanka *(a)* started and *(b)* ended; [66474]

(2) whether any *(a)* Government officials and *(b)* special advisers were involved in the preparation or delivery of his recent visit to Sri Lanka; [66475]

(3) what official engagements he undertook during his visit to Sri Lanka; [66476]

(4) whether any of his officials accompanied him on his recent visit to Sri Lanka. [66477]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I made an official visit to Sri Lanka between 8-10 July 2011 and met with the President, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister for Economic Development; other Government of Sri Lanka Ministers and officials were present during these meetings. I also met with the Tamil National Alliance and the leader of the United National Party. Members of civil society and the international community based in Colombo attended a high commission hosted dinner, and I spoke at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Memorial Lecture.

I was accompanied by a Private Secretary, a Special Adviser, and a representative of the Defence Media and Communications Staff. As is standard practice for such a visit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence officials including Special Advisers provided support and advice.

Nuclear Deterrent

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 50WS, on nuclear deterrent, whether any multilateral verification provisions have been put in place in relation to the warhead reduction programme on Vanguard class submarines. [65179]

Dr Fox: No. However, as a responsible nuclear weapon state party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the UK continues to pursue multilateral progress towards mutual, balanced, and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons worldwide.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia

12. **Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides for UK businesses operating in Colombia. [66871]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs's Canning House lecture set out the case for doing more to encourage British trade and investment in Latin America. Colombia is a key emerging economy and we are strengthening our embassy in Bogota. This includes hands-on support from UK Trade & Investment for British companies looking to do business in Colombia. Our human rights officials provide advice on how to ensure that British companies can operate to the highest standards.

Pakistan

13. **Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on Pakistan. [66872]

Alistair Burt: A strong US-Pakistan relationship is in all of our interest. I speak regularly to both my US and Pakistani colleagues about our common objectives in the region whether it is fighting terrorism, pursuing an Afghan-led political settlement, or increasing access to education in Pakistan. Only yesterday I spoke to Mark Grossman, the US Special Envoy to Afghanistan.

Libya

16. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Libya. [66875]

Alistair Burt: It is clear that Gaddafi has lost all legitimacy and must relinquish power immediately. The pressure on him continues to intensify. We and international partners are now supporting the National Transitional Council in developing plans for a post-conflict Libya based on inclusive and democratic principles.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the co-ordination of Government policy on Libya. [66876]

Alistair Burt: I am in constant contact with ministerial colleagues on Libya, and hold regular discussions with International Development, Defence and Treasury colleagues in particular, to ensure a comprehensive response to the key issues. Policy on Libya is also discussed formally with all relevant departments at meetings of the National Security Council.

China

18. **Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of bilateral relations with China; and if he will make a statement. [66877]

Mr Jeremy Browne: This Government have prioritised deepening our relationship with China. The recent UK/China Summit was the third high-level exchange between our countries in the last eight months. Our trade relationship is expanding and on course to reach our target of US$100 billion by 2015, and we have established a range of dialogues with the Chinese leadership to take forward our relationship.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to improve investment relations with China. [67058]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The development of strong bilateral trade and investment links with China is a key priority for the UK Government. Currently the UK attracts the second highest flow of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in the EU. By the end of December 2010, the estimated stock of Chinese investment into the UK was $1.2 billion. The UK ranks second to Germany as the largest European investor in China (in cumulative terms), with at least 25% of the EU total.

During the UK-China summit on 27 June, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation on Investment Promotion was signed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on behalf of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), with the Ministry of Commerce of China. This will ensure that both parties will cooperate more closely to support Chinese enterprises establish and expand sustainable commercial investments in the UK, including in UK infrastructure and regeneration projects. Following the Prime Minister discussions with Premier Wen, UKTI are also looking into establishing a taskforce to take this agenda forward.

Greece

19. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the economic situation in Greece; and if he will make a statement. [66878]

Mr Lidington: The Government receives a very wide range of advice on a number of matters concerning Greece including of course the economic situation and outlook.

Diplomatic Network

20. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote trade links through the diplomatic network. [66879]

Mr Hague: We are expanding our diplomatic network in emerging economies and increasing the importance of commercial diplomacy.

We have recently published the FCO Charter for business.

Afghanistan: Criminal Proceedings

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Criminal Justice Taskforce Programme in Afghanistan during the last 12 months. [66256]

Alistair Burt: The Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) is a multi-departmental Afghan detention, investigation, prosecution and judicial team which targets the narcotics trade.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding for counter-narcotics and rule of law work in Afghanistan currently comes from two sources: Conflict Pool (tri-departmentally funded by FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence); and the Strategic Programme Fund.

Spend on the CJTF from both these sources for the financial year 2010-11 was £1,502,102. This expenditure covers the running costs of the CJTF, including wages of staff, transport and administration. It also covers additional training and development of infrastructure to put the CJTF on a sustainable footing.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on human rights of the sentence of Abdulhadi Al Khawaja; and if he will make a statement. [65183]

Alistair Burt: We are deeply concerned by the nature of the charges brought against Mr Al Khawaja and the 20 other political figures. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a statement to the House of Commons on 29 June, *Official Report*, columns 959-60, expressing the UK's concerns about the suspension and investigation of political parties, the imprisonment of leading moderate politicians, the alleged mistreatment of detainees and the trial of members of the medical profession before tribunals containing a military judge.

Our outgoing ambassador to Bahrain has raised the reports of abuse in detention, lack of access, to legal counsel, coerced confessions and that civilians were being tried before a military judge.

We continue to urge the Government of Bahrain, at the highest level, to take forward their commitment to investigate the claims of abuse. In this context, we welcome the establishment on 30 June, by His Majesty the King of an independent commission, composed of international figures, to look into the events of recent months and into allegations of abuses of human rights.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the statement by the Minister for the Middle East on 22 June 2011, if he made representations to the Bahraini authorities in the case of Mr Al Khawaja. [65385]

Alistair Burt: I have not made specific representations to the Government of Bahrain in the case of Mr Al Khawaja. However, we have raised our concerns about the conduct of the national safety trials with the Bahraini authorities. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised UK concerns about the arrests of protestors and medical staff when he met the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 25 May 2011. Our outgoing ambassador to Bahrain has been raising our concerns with the Government of Bahrain, at the highest level.

BBC World Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of the BBC World Service Hindi shortwave service in 2010. [63055]

Mr Jeremy Browne: BBC Hindi provides services via shortwave, FM, online and to mobile devices. The cost of BBC Hindi, excluding the costs of transmission and UK-based accommodation, technology and studio operations, was £1.7 million in 2010-11. It is not possible to give figures, for the excluded costs as they are used by more than one BBC World Service and an accurate break down of the cost to BBC Hindi is not available. However, according to the BBC World Service's evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee, savings associated with changes to BBC Hindi announced in January would be about £680,000 in production costs. Additionally, there would be £190,000 savings in distribution costs.

Belarus: Politics and Government

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Belarus about standards of governance in that country. [66864]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have consistently called upon the Belarusian authorities to recognise the rule of law and democratic freedoms, free political prisoners and end human rights abuses. I have also condemned the Belarusian authorities' disproportionate response to the recent 'silent' protests.

BRIC Countries

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* India and *(c)* China in an official capacity in the next 12 months. [67255]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not finalised his travel plans, but hopes to visit all three countries in the next 12 months.

As Minister of State, I have visited China three times, Brazil twice and India once. I also hope to visit all three countries again in the next 12 months.

British Nationals Abroad: Death

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on *(a)* the Memorandum of Understanding on dealing with deaths of UK citizens abroad and *(b)* Greek non-participation in the compensation scheme. [64231]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Consular officials have held discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Coroners Society of England and Wales, stakeholder groups and partners across Government about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). These discussions have taken place under the auspices of the Death Abroad Working Group, which includes representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), ACPO, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), European RoadPeace, Coroners Society of England and Wales and Support After Murder and Manslaughter Abroad.

(b) Consular officials in Greece raised the compensation scheme with the Greek Ministry of Justice in the summer of 2010. The Greek Ministry of Justice, in line with European Union (EU) Council Directive 2004/80/EC, has created The Hellenic Authority of Compensation. This authority considers compensation claims of victims of violent crimes committed in Greece.

British Nationals Abroad: Detainees

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1118W, on prisoners, how many cases of UK citizens detained without trial in other EU member states for more than 12 months have been referred to his Department for *(a)* consular assistance and *(b)* ministerial intervention in the last two years. [67139]

Mr Lidington: We are aware of 554 British nationals who are currently being detained at various stages of legal process in EU member states other than the UK. However, our recording system does not break down this figure further and to obtain the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Burma: Politics and Government

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of China regarding the conflict in Kachin state, Burma. [66264]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned at the breakdown of the ceasefire agreement in Kachin state which has led to renewed conflict and the displacement of up to 20,000 people. We have raised our concern at official level with the Chinese authorities. The Government are clear that countries in the region need to maintain pressure on the Burmese Government to begin a process of genuine inclusive dialogue that addresses the concerns and longstanding grievances of ethnic groups.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK contributed to the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in the latest year for which figures are available; and what proportion of total expenditure on MONUSCO by UN member states this represented. [66866]

Mr Hague: In UK financial year 2010-11 the UK contributed £69.1 million for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The UK's share of UN peacekeeping costs is currently set at 8.15%.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67908]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 508W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt).

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66524]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the use of procurement for this purpose, but, as the majority of our expenditure is overseas, we have limited potential to develop skills and apprenticeships in the UK through contractors and their suppliers.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67459]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held in the form requested, and is available only at disproportionate cost. Staff attend events which support FCO objectives—for example, meetings with senior political and military figures from host countries and events hosted for political and business delegations (including those in support of UK Trade and Industry). Hospitality is undertaken for business reasons, and any expenditure on business hospitality is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Photographs

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on photoshoots and videos involving Ministers since May 2010. [67458]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Two Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officers have been trained in photography and cover FCO events attended by Ministers at no additional cost. This was reduced to one FCO officer since December 2010.

The FCO has also contracted through the Central Office of Information two professional video journalists since May 2010, but the costs of this are not split between ministerial and other events.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67237]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold centrally information on contracts awarded to small businesses. Procurement responsibility is devolved to directorates in London and over 260 posts overseas. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67238]

Mr Lidington: The Department operates both in the UK and across a network of over 260 overseas posts. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has devolved procurement authorities and therefore to gather the total number of contracts could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since the introduction of Contracts Finder in December 2010, the FCO has published two contracts with a number of others undertaking assurance checks.

Departmental Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many properties his Department owns or rents *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas; and what the location of each is. [66803]

Mr Lidington: In the UK the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) owns three properties: two buildings in London and one site near Milton Keynes. The FCO rents another three properties in London, and two in central Milton Keynes. The FCO's arm's length bodies rent their own accommodation.

Overseas, the FCO has 5,047 properties. This includes compounds and the properties within those compounds. A more detailed breakdown of location of the properties will be deposited with the Library of the House.

Business: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65316]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is as follows:

(a) My Department introduced no regulations in the six months prior to 1 September 2010. It introduced, however, four statutory instruments (please see list contained in UIN 65350, reply to *(a)*). They did not impose costs on businesses.

(b) My Department has not introduced any regulatory measures in the six months after 1 September 2010 but it did introduce the following, seven statutory instruments which imposed no costs on businesses:

The Montserrat Constitution Order 2010

The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2010

The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution (Interim Amendment) (Amendment) Order 2010

The Geneva Conventions (Overseas Territories) Order 2010

The Iran (United Nations Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2010

The Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2010

The Legislative Reform (Civil Partnership) Order 2010.

The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2010 and the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2010 have a minor impact on business in the case of the first Order and a minimal impact (largely minor changes in procedure) on businesses in the case of the second Order.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65333]

Mr Lidington: The information is as follows:

(a) My Department has introduced no regulations since 1 September 2010, but it did introduce the following 18 statutory instruments, none of which imposed costs on businesses, in addition to the seven listed in the reply to UIN 65316 *(b)*:

The Consular Fees Order 2011

The Tunisia (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011

The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Partnership and Co-operation Agreement) (Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011

The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement) (Republic of Serbia) Order 2011

The Libya (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011

The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes on Terminology) Order 2011

The Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Act (Dissolution) Order 2011

The Child Abduction and Custody (Parties to Conventions) (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2011

The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc Act 2010 (Overseas Territories) Order 2011

The Overseas Territories (Change of Name) Order 2011

The Overseas Territories (Change of Name) (No 2) Order 2011

The Overseas Territories (Change of Name) (No 3) Order 2011

The Overseas Territories (Change of Name) (No 4) Order 2011

The Overseas Territories (Change of Name) (No 5) Order 2011

The Egypt (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011

The Syria (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011

The International Criminal Court (Libya) Order 2011

The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011

(b) No regulations imposing costs on businesses have been removed in this period by my Department.

The following statutory instruments were, however, removed:

The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2010 (please see reply to PQ 65316)

The Child Abduction and Custody (Parties to Conventions) (Amendment) Order 2011

There was no net effect on the costs of businesses of such introductions and removals and no regulations have been excluded from the One-in, One-out regulatory management system.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65350]

Mr Lidington: The information is as follows:

(a) No regulations imposing costs on businesses were introduced by my Department in the six months prior to 1 September 2010. For information, my Department introduced no regulations in this period but it made the following, four statutory instruments, none of which imposed costs on businesses:

The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Order 2010

The Uzbekistan (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) (Revocation) Order 2010

The International Criminal Court Act 2001 (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2010

The Geneva Conventions and United Nations Personnel (Protocols) Act 2009 (Commencement No 2) Order 2010

(b) In the six months prior to 1 September 2010, my Department did not remove any regulations.

There was no net effect on the costs of businesses as a result of statutory instruments introduced or removed in this period.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67205]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not normally introduce regulations or regulatory guidance.

Departmental Responsibilities

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to change his Department's administrative structure. [66802]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Yes. In line with the Ministerial Code and the new Code of Corporate Governance, we are in the process of setting up a new Supervisory Board, which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will chair.

This new board will sit above our existing Management Board, which is chaired by the Permanent Under-Secretary. Its primary role will be to monitor the performance and capability of the Department in achieving the objectives in our Business Plan. It will have roughly equal membership of Ministers, officials and non executives. We anticipate that this Board will hold its first meeting after the summer, once we confirm the appointment of a lead non executive board member.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67166]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs meets members of all parties on a regular basis.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67189]

Mr Lidington: Ministers and officials receive a large number of invitations from all sources, and we do not consider that a system to record reasons for declining invitations to meet would be value for money or worthwhile.

Departmental Training

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was in each case. [67457]

Mr Bellingham: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers attended the Ministerial Induction course run by the National School of Government at no cost to the office. Training is available to Ministers in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code. Details of training made available to Government Ministers by the National School of Government can be found at:

www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/MinisterialProgramme/Offer.asp

Embassies: Operating Costs

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what proportion of the running costs of British embassies and high commissions was attributable to *(a)* rental or housing allowance and *(b)* maintenance of properties in the latest period for which figures are available; [54582]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the running costs of British embassies and High Commissions in the last two years. [54598]

Mr Lidington: The net cost of running our network of over 260 British embassies and high commissions are as follows:

2009-10: £783,557,669

2008-09: £777,099,364.

Running costs consists of salaries, central overheads other direct costs, and programme spend.

The FCO is committed to reducing costs across the network and has committed to removing bureaucracy.

European Parliament

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on ending sittings of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. [67874]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government's position on the site of the European Parliament is well known from the coalition programme for Government. We raise this issue with EU colleagues as appropriate.

Members of the European Parliament are also considering this issue. On 9 March 2011, they voted in favour of an amendment to the 2012-13 Strasbourg calendar seeking to reduce the number of sessions by one, through combining two autumn sessions. France and Luxembourg have challenged this decision at the European Court of Justice.

Falkland Islands: Shipping

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met his Argentinian counterpart to discuss shipping links between the Falklands and South America. [67375]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are no direct shipping links between Argentina and the Falkland Islands. The Government have not discussed with Argentina the shipping links that exist between the Falkland Islands and other South American ports.

In early 2010, Argentina introduced a presidential decree that aimed to restrict maritime movements to and from the Falkland Islands through Argentine waters. The Government have firmly protested and rejected the decree as not compliant with international law.

Ilois: Resettlement

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the outcome of Al-Skeini *v* UK at the European Court of Human Rights, what consideration he is giving to withdrawing from the Chagos Islanders v UK case; what consideration he has given to an out-of-court settlement; and if he will make a statement. [67100]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We will continue to contest the case brought by a group of Chagos Islanders before the European Court of Human Rights. The Government believe the arguments against allowing resettlement on the grounds of feasibility and defence security are clear and compelling. We do not consider there to be a case for paying further compensation to the applicants as part of a settlement.

India: Commonwealth Games

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any request from Satellite Information Services for assistance in the recovery from the Indian Government of any sums owing to that company following its broadcast of the 2010 Commonwealth Games; and if he will make a statement. [67644]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are aware of the difficulties that Satellite Information Services and other British companies have had in receiving payment for services provided during the Commonwealth Games. We have raised our concerns with the Indian Government at ministerial level and officials in our high commission in Delhi are in regular touch with senior officials across the many different Ministries involved to try and seek a resolution.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on religious freedom in Indonesia. [67379]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Jakarta monitors the situation on freedom of religion closely.

At the UK's request, freedom of religion was included as a substantive item during the two EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogues which have taken place so far. The EU noted Indonesia's efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue and raised concerns over—in particular—the persecution of the Ahmadiyya community and recent attacks on Christians.

Latin America: Embassies

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had on the future operations of UK embassies and consulates in *(a)* Latin America, *(b)* Central America and *(c)* the Caribbean. [67308]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs announced details of the Network Shift to the House on 11 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 1165. We are increasing our overall diplomatic presence; maintaining all our embassies and high commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean; and opening a new embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador and a new consulate in Recife and Brazil.

The UK's operations in the Americas will be developed further by a new network of prosperity officers who are currently being recruited. These new officers will operate from our missions in Bogota, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, Panama City, Rio, Santiago and Sao Paulo.

Montserrat: Volcanoes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential threat from volcanoes in Montserrat. [66644]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) continuously monitors the Soufrière Hills Volcano to provide timely advice to the authorities in order to reduce the impact of volcanic activity on the population of Montserrat. The MVO currently reports that volcanic activity is at a low level (hazard level 3). Weekly assessments are published on the MVO website:

www.mvo.ms

The MVO works closely with a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to monitor the threat posed by the volcano. The SAC last visited Montserrat from 15 to 17 November 2010. It reported the volcano was in a paused state and that the general level of expected risk to the people of Montserrat for the next 12 months had fallen compared to March 2010. The SAC's full report is also available on the MVO website.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since his appointment. [67355]

Mr Lidington: Ministers meet the National Security Adviser frequently during the normal course of business.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67417]

Mr Hague: I am a member of the National Security Council and I take an active role in all its discussions and decision-making. As Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am responsible for all the papers which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office submits for consideration by the National Security Council, and take a close interest in their preparation.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* levels of corruption and *(b)* political stability in Pakistan. [67039]

Alistair Burt: The Government routinely monitor reporting on the nature and extent of corruption in Pakistan and works with the Government of Pakistan, International Partners and civil society organisations to promote accountability and transparency.

Pakistan is currently dealing with major domestic challenges, including how to: tackle a large militant insurgency in its border regions; achieve democratic and economic reform; and recover from the aftermath of last year's devastating floods as well as dealing with the repercussions of the death of Osama bin Laden. We offer Pakistan our full support in facing these challenges.

A stable, prosperous and democratic Pakistan, at ease with its regional neighbours and equipped with the will and capacity to tackle violent extremism, is of direct and critical importance to the security of the UK and its interests. Ministers and senior officials engage regularly at a senior level with Pakistani interlocutors from all parties to highlight the importance of democratic and economic stability for Pakistan.

I and my colleagues continue to seek progress on these issues from the Pakistani Government.

Peru: Mining

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Peruvian counterpart on corporate social responsibility in the extractive sector. [67117]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Discussions on this issue are a regular feature of our official level dialogue with Peru. I intend to discuss issues relating to the extractive sector when I attend the presidential inauguration in Peru on 28 July.

The UK Government are committed to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and to the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights. We encourage all British companies wherever they operate, to observe these international standards, as since responsible businesses contribute to respect and support for human rights.

Our embassy in Lima is actively engaged in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Implementation Group. The group is assisting and encouraging the Peruvian Government to join the Voluntary Principles. The Voluntary Principles guide extractive industry companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that ensures, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Republic of Ireland: Commonwealth

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Irish counterpart on the Republic of Ireland joining the Commonwealth. [66846]

Mr Lidington: The Republic of Ireland's interest in rejoining the Commonwealth is a matter for the Irish Government and the wider Commonwealth membership. The UK Government have had no discussions with the Irish Government on this issue.

Sri Lanka

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he was informed in advance of the plans of the Secretary of State for Defence to visit Sri Lanka. [67619]

Alistair Burt: The visit undertaken by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence was official. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs fully supported the visit.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects any changes to UK policy towards Sri Lanka to arise from the Secretary of State for Defence's recent visit to that country. [67643]

Alistair Burt: The visit to Sri Lanka by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence supported UK policy on Sri Lanka. He was able to deliver the Government's views to the Sri Lankan Government on the need for accountability for alleged war crimes and build on the visit I undertook to Sri Lanka in February 2011.

Third Sector

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which charities and voluntary organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67455]

Mr Lidington: Ministers carry out their duties in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Any charitable activities in a personal capacity are a private matter for them. Relevant interests are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-ministers-interests

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Chinese government on the subject of human rights in Tibet. [65944]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I raised our concerns about human rights in China, during my visit in June. I also raised our specific concerns about human rights in Tibet with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Special Representative on Human Rights at the 19th Round of the UK-China human rights dialogue in January 2011.

The UK-China human rights dialogue also included an expert workshop on minority rights and languages, an area of particular relevance to Tibet. British embassy officials in China have recently made visits to Tibetan areas and continue to monitor the situation.

We are also deeply concerned by reports of violence at the Kirti Monastery in a Tibetan area of Sichuan Province. I wrote to the Chinese Ambassador on 3 May raising our concerns at recent human rights developments in China, including the situation at Kirti Monastery.

Officials have also raised these concerns with both the Chinese embassy in London and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, asking for information and calling for restraint.

Visits Abroad

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister concerning private visits made by Government Ministers to meet representatives of foreign Governments. [67620]

Mr Lidington: We do not comment on internal conversations between members of the Government.

West Papua

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Indonesian counterpart on the situation in West Papua. [67380]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly raise UK public and parliamentary concern at the situation in Papua with the Indonesian Government at ministerial and official level. In addition, our officials regularly visit the region—the next visit is scheduled for 2 August—and we voice our concerns when appropriate. The UK has also participated fully in the EU-Indonesia Human Rights dialogues. At the most recent dialogue which took place on 9 March 2011 in Brussels, the EU raised continuing concerns at the situation in the Papuan provinces and underscored the need for accountability.

The UK encourages dialogue between all parties, and remains committed to encouraging all levels of government to work with the Papuans towards solving their regional governance disputes peacefully. We welcome the organisation of a Papuan Peace Conference in Jayapura from 5 to 7 July and have long encouraged all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve their differences. Our priority for the provinces of Papua and West Papua is to encourage full implementation of special autonomy for these provinces and to press for increased focus on meaningful economic and social development to address the widespread poverty in the region.

While concerns remain we welcome progress that has been made in respect for both human rights and governance in the region.

CABINET OFFICE

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66594]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office expects its suppliers and supply chain partners to deploy capable staff on contracts servicing our needs. Our procurement processes include relevant checks on supplier capability. It is for suppliers themselves to decide their training and apprenticeship requirements.

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66596]

Mr Maude: Among the Cabinet Office's major contractors, the number of apprenticeships created were two in 2008-09, two in 2009-10 and three in 2010-11.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* 10 Downing Street in (i) June 2010 and (ii) June 2011. [66763]

Mr Maude: The estimated carbon emissions from the Cabinet Office as a whole and 10 Downing street in June 2010 and June 2011 are shown in the following table. These figures have not been weather-corrected.

Carbon emissions

		Tonnes
	June 2010	*June 2011*
Total Cabinet Office	522.6	446.1
10 Downing street	52.2	46.6

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on departmental carbon emissions, if he will assess the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on his Department's estate. [67930]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is presently undergoing an estate rationalisation programme which will result in its concentration into two buildings: 70 Whitehall/Downing street and 1 Horseguards road.

A low-carbon energy generation feasibility study was undertaken at the Department's building at 70 Whitehall in September 2008. The study considered options for renewable energy generation such as wind turbines, photovoltaic panels and the installation of biomass heating. Financial considerations as well as restrictions arising due to the building's grade 1 listed status meant that none of the proposals presented were feasible.

The Cabinet Office will seek to work with the other occupiers at 1 Horseguards road to assess possible future low-carbon energy generation options.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66595]

Mr Maude: Spend is only categorised by sector on a retrospective basis at the end of each financial year and is not available in real time. The information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67450]

Mr Maude: I refer the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 667W.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67210]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office has not introduced any new regulation in the last 12 months. No officials are dedicated to the production of guidance, any guidance required is drafted alongside the preparation of the regulations to which it relates and, as such, it is not possible to distinguish the resource used in preparing guidance from the resource used to prepare the regulation.

Cabinet Office prepares its guidance in accordance with the BIS Code of Practice "Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation":

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/code-of-practice-on-guidance-on-regulation

and with reference to the Better Regulation website:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1079717544&r.lc=en&r.l2=1079840861&topicId=1084828139&furlname=betterregulation&furlparam=betterregulation&ref=http%3A//www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/code-of-practice-on-guidance-on-regulation&domain=businesslink.gov.uk

Departmental Training

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was in each case. [67449]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010 Cabinet Office Ministers have not received any training at a cost to the Department.

Employment: Visual Impairment

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of working age *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially-sighted people in each nation of the UK are (i) employed, (ii) unemployed and seeking work and (iii) unemployed and inactive. [67128]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of working age (a) blind and (b) partially-sighted people in each nation of the UK are (i) employed, (ii) unemployed and seeking work and (ii) unemployed and inactive. 67128

The available information is provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and are for all those who reported that they had difficulty in seeing (including while wearing spectacles or contact lenses). Separate estimates for blind and partially-sighted are not available.

Estimates for Northern Ireland have not been provided because the relatively small sample size there means the estimates are too unreliable and, also, rules on confidentiality would have been breached.

The official, internationally agreed definitions of labour market status have been applied in this answer. Consequently, "unemployed and seeking work" is treated as "unemployed" and "unemployed and inactive" is treated as "economically inactive".

Statistics published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin previously described as working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59) have now been replaced with statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women. Consequently, the estimates provided are on this basis.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Percentage of people aged 16 to 64 who have difficulty in seeing, by labour market status, average for January to December 2010

Percentage

	In employment	*Unemployed*	*Economically inactive*
England	39	5	56
Wales	29	2	69
Scotland	33	4	63

Source:
Annual Population Survey.

Government Departments: Advertising

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Government spent on advertising in *(a)* The Sun, *(b)* The Times, *(c)* the News of the World and *(d)* The Sunday Times (i) in each financial year since 2005-06 and (ii) 2011-12 to date. [65512]

Mr Maude: Information on Government spend on advertising in News International titles through the Central Office of Information (COI) for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is listed in the following tables:

The Sun and News of the World

£

	April 2005 – March 2006	*April 2006 – March 2007*	*April 2007 – March 2008*	*April 2008 – March 2009*	*April 2009 – March 2010*
The Sun	3,055,253	2,688,068	2,251,627	4,634,884	4,504,693
News of the World	1,466,490	741,230	1,356,885	2,039,424	1,813,527
Supplements:					
Sunday TV Magazine	0	126,000	9,000	227,290	144,355
News of the World TV	23,000	48,000	16,000	0	0
News of the World Fabulous	0	0	73,700	264,675	318,734

The Sun and News of the World

	April 2005 – March 2006	*April 2006 – March 2007*	*April 2007 – March 2008*	*April 2008 – March 2009*	£ *April 2009 – March 2010*
News of the World Sunday	569,500	301,226	74,776	0	0

The Times and The Sunday Times

	April 2005 – March 2006	*April 2006 – March 2007*	*April 2007 – March 2008*	*April 2008 – March 2009*	£ *April 2009 – March 2010*
The Times	728,290	854,023	953,309	899,991	1,067,582
The Sunday Times	1,006,528	612,299	1,284,970	1,176,568	1,386,060
Supplements:					
The Times Magazine	110,100	114,500	35,000	129,431	35,750
Sunday Times Culture	0	66,000	11,000	0	0
The Times Knowledge	32,300	0	3,000	0	0
The Sunday Times Magazine	180,143	182,481	116,950	204,100	102,000
Sunday Times Driving	0	64,728	0	0	0
The London Paper	0	55,021	148,557	167,015	73,776

These figures detailed as follows show Government spend on advertising in News International titles through COI for the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12. These figures have not yet been fully audited.

Title	£ *April 2010 – March 2011*
The Sun	427,120
News of the World	113,213
Sunday TV Magazine	0
New of the World TV	0
New of the World Fabulous	23,100
News of the World Sunday	0

Title	£ *April 2010 – March 2011*
The Times	215,760
The Sunday Times	97,960
The Times Magazine	0
Sunday Times Culture	0
The Times Knowledge	0
The Sunday Times Magazine	0
Sunday Times Driving	0
The London Paper	0

Title	£ *April 2011 – March 2012*
The Times	5,500
The Sunday Times	26,640

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Government and their Executive agencies spent on advertising in each News International newspaper title in the period between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011. [65579]

Mr Maude: The total amount spent on advertising campaigns with News International newspaper titles by Government and their Executive agencies is not held centrally.

The figures detailed in the table show Government spend on advertising in News International titles made through the central Office of Information (COI) between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011. These figures have not yet been fully audited.

	£
The Sun	418,308
News of The World	113,213
Times	107,215
Sunday Times	124,600
Supplements:	
News of the World—Fabulous magazine	22,900

Government Departments: Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consideration he has given to proposing the installation of charging points for electric vehicles across the central Government estate. [66740]

Mr Maude: Departments have adopted a range of energy efficient vehicles to improve efficiency and achieve their carbon reduction commitments. It is for each Department to decide on a cost effective basis the development of any infrastructure upon their estate to support the operation of their fleet.

Lord Macdonald of River Glaven

Helen Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether Lord Macdonald of River Glaven required clearance from the Business Appointments Committee for his work at News International. [67641]

Mr Maude: As I made clear in my answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 262W, civil servants employed by the Crown Prosecution Service are subject to the requirements of the business appointment rules for two years after leaving office.

Lord MacDonald left the post of Director of Public Prosecutions on 31 October 2008. I understand his work for News International commenced in May 2011 and was therefore outside the scope of the rules' two-year period.

Public Services: Private Sector

Nick Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1080W, on public services: private sector, what plans he has for monitoring the business models of companies providing key public services. [67303]

Mr Letwin: The Open Public Services White Paper set out our principles for ensuring the continuity of public services. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I will be working with colleagues to develop continuity regimes based on these principles over the next few months.

Skin Cancer

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of skin cancer were diagnosed in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* cancer network in each of the last 10 years. [66013]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cases of skin cancers were diagnosed in each (a) primary care trust and (b) cancer network in each of the last 10 years. [66013]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of skin cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables provide the number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer in each (a) primary care organisation (Table 1) and (b) cancer network (Table 2) in England for each year from 1999 to 2008.

Numbers of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer are not collected centrally.

Copies of Tables 1 and 2 have been placed in the House of Commons library.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Jim Shannon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the value for money of the referendum on the alternative vote. [66845]

Mr Harper: The referendum on the voting system was important in enabling people to have their say on whether a new voting system should be adopted. The Government took steps to reduce costs where possible, for example, by combining the referendum with the devolved and local government elections, which saved an estimated £30 million across all the polls held on 5 May.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for accounting for the funds which were allocated for the referendum, and has assured us that value for money will be taken into account when assessing individual claims. We will make an overall assessment on the cost of the referendum, and whether there are further opportunities for providing value for money in such polls once all claims from regional counting officers and counting officers for the conduct of the poll have been submitted to the Electoral Commission and settled.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67625]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My private office has spent £30.64 on official hospitality for staff since May 2010.

Ministerial Meetings

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67169]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I regularly meet with parliamentary colleagues from all political parties in the course of Government business. However, the information requested, could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Elections: Armed Forces

Mr Burley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the Electoral Commission's recommendation that the electoral timetable should be extended to support participation by overseas and service voters. [67062]

Mr Harper: I announced in a written ministerial statement to the House of Commons on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS, that the Government had published draft legislation on three electoral administration provisions for pre-legislative scrutiny. This included provisions which extend the timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 days, which will help to support the participation of overseas and service voters in UK elections. The draft legislation addresses particular issues that have been raised by MPs and peers, and by others, including the Electoral Commission.

National Assembly for Wales: Elections

Paul Murphy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the First Minister of Wales regarding the electoral arrangements of the National Assembly for Wales. [64994]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I regularly speak to the First Minister for Wales on a wide range of issues in the course of Government business.

Third Sector

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which charities and voluntary organisations he has visited since 12 May 2010. [67438]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Details of my meetings with external organisations, including charities and voluntary organisations, are published quarterly on:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights Commission: European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which members of the Bill of Rights Commission visited the European Court of Human Rights on 5 July 2011; what matters were discussed; and what the costs were to the public purse. [67090]

Mr Djanogly: Eight members of the Commission on a Bill of Rights visited the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on 4 and 5 July 2011. Discussions that took place on this visit are a matter for the Commission.

A total figure for the precise cost of the visit is not yet available. I will write to the hon. Member with this information once it is available and a copy of the letter will be placed in the House Library.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67568]

Mr Djanogly: The Department's central records show no recorded information on subscription payments to Sky TV.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice his Department has received from the Insolvency Service on reform of civil litigation funding and costs for insolvency cases. [67466]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my answer on 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, the Insolvency Service provided a response to the consultation 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations'. Ministry of Justice officials are in ongoing contact with officials at the Insolvency Service regarding the impact of the reforms on insolvency proceedings.

Defamation: Conditional Fee Agreements

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will delay his decision to cap no win, no fee conditional fee agreements for cases involving the publication of libel by newspaper organisations until the Government's inquiry into the ethics and practices of the media has reported. [66936]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill includes provisions to implement fundamental reforms to how no win no fee conditional fee agreements operate across all categories of civil litigation, for both claimants and defendants. Under our proposals, claimants in libel cases would still be able to bring claims under no win no fee agreements. The Bill is now before the Public Bill Committee for scrutiny. The Government are not minded to delay the reforms to no win no fee agreements in respect of libel cases, which are intended to make the costs of civil litigation more proportionate.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was; [66574]

Mr Blunt: The latest figures show that the following items were lost or stolen from the Department's premises in the past year:

43 personal computers; 14 laptops; 12 BlackBerry cell phones; 26 RSA secure ID tokens; 15 BeCrypt encryption tokens and five items of removable media.

The following items were lost or stolen while outside the Departments premises:

1 PC; 40 laptops; 53 BlackBerrys; 52 RSA tokens; 39 BeCrypt tokens and 25 items of removable media.

Losses of other equipment, such as mobile telephones and the cost of replacing individual items are not recorded centrally. This information is kept at a local level and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Central data do not distinguish between loss and theft, nor provide an indication of recovery.

The above excludes losses from HM Prison Service stores. This information will shortly be published in the Department's annual resource accounts, which are currently being finalised.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67539]

Mr Djanogly: Information on total hospitality expenditure is reflected in a broader category of account. We do not hold a further breakdown of these costs showing specific costs relating to staff.

The Department has strict controls in place to control hospitality expenditure.

Departmental Photographs

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on ministerial *(a)* photoshoots and *(b)* videos since May 2010. [67540]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry has not incurred any cost for ministerial photographs or videos since May 2010.

Since August 2009, the Ministry of Justice has the capability to provide photography and video production in-house.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66616]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice current contracts and annual values are in the following table:

	Annual contract value
Sectors	*£*
Business travel	27,345,417
Fleet	9,501,292
Radios	2,760,806
Clinical and medical	750,000
Industries	50,000
PECS[1]	147,857,181.00
Electronic monitoring	121,000,000.00
BASS	9,000,000.00
Private prison contracts	339,800,000.00
Financial services	5,895,287
Translations	1,049,000
Operational goods	50,038,887.88
Office solutions	16,888,901
HR services	15,702,000
Financial services	5,895,287
Estates professional services	38,749,225.00
Facilities management—hard and soft services	[3]130,923,684.08
Waste management	2,745,680.00
Minor works	50,000,000.00
Estates professional services	38,749,225.00
Professional Services temporary staff[2]	41,700,000.00
Construction	154,884,761
Estates consultancy	19,115,944
Global sourcing and industries	27,511,000
Utilities	41,722,000
Prisoner retail	50,000,000
Resettlement	95,079,300
Food and catering	73,958,000
ICT	431,193,854.00

[1] Including inter-prison transfers

[2] Interims, clerical agency and ancillary.

[3] Including cleaning and security guarding.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67231]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) did not hold centrally information regarding the procurement of goods or services from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) prior to April 2011. This information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the Department, by a number of staff manually reviewing large volumes of records.

Following the development of the MOJ's SME action plan this information is now recorded. Between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 87 contracts were awarded to SMEs.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67232]

Mr Djanogly: Since 1 April 2011 (when Departments were required to advertise 'live' opportunities on Contracts Finder), 100% of the Ministry of Justice's contract opportunities above £10,000 that are subject to open competition have been submitted for publication on Contracts Finder.

Departmental Redundancy

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67541]

Mr Djanogly: There have been no compulsory redundancies since May 2010, therefore there are no costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67161]

Mr Djanogly: My right hon. and learned Friend Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice regularly meets hon. Members of the House in the course of his ministerial and constituency duties. Due to the large number of meetings he attends which involve hon. Members, the work involved in searching records to assemble this information would exceed the cost limit for answering PQs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67184]

Mr Djanogly: My right hon. and learned Friend Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice seeks to accommodate requests to meet with hon. Members of the House wherever possible and appropriate. Due to the variety of means by which meeting requests are made, both formally and informally, we do not believe it would be practical to centrally record instances where a meeting request may have been declined.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67583]

Mr Djanogly: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice seek to accommodate requests to meet with hon. Members of the House wherever possible and appropriate. The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record instances where meeting requests have been declined, and the work involved in searching records to attempt to assemble this information would exceed the cost limit for answering PQs.

Departmental Training

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose was of such training. [67537]

Mr Djanogly: Since May 2010, the Ministry of Justice has spent £4,000 on training for Ministers.

One Minister completed a workshop on 'Finance in Government'. In addition, three Ministers completed media training, designed to assist Ministers in clearly communicating the work of the Ministry of Justice to the public.

No other training has been provided for Ministers.

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential of early neutral evaluation as a method of alternative dispute resolution in employment tribunal claims. [67396]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to encouraging the public to resolve their issues out of court without recourse to public funds, using simpler, more informal remedies where they are appropriate. In this context, my Department is working to develop proposals to promote wider use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) across the courts and tribunals system.

Insofar as employment tribunals are concerned, and given the unique position of ACAS in the employment dispute resolution system, ADR is already embedded as a central feature of the process. The Pre Claim Conciliation scheme run by ACAS allows parties to engage in ADR before claims are even lodged with a tribunal. The Government's consultation paper "Resolving Workplace Disputes" sets out how we intend to build on our experience in this area.

However, it is generally accepted that there will be cases which reach the tribunal but have little or no prospect of success. Identifying these cases at an early stage helps tribunals to allocate resources more effectively. There are already wide-ranging powers for employment judges to case manage proceedings from an early stage. These include holding interim hearings to consider the relevant issues involved. Tribunals have the power to make deposit orders where a claim/response has little reasonable prospect of success; and ultimately to strike out any claim/response which has no reasonable prospect of success. Again, the "Resolving Workplace Disputes" consultation considers how these powers could be made more effective.

In the tribunals system more widely, we have considered early neutral evaluation (ENE) techniques, alongside others. Given the findings from pilot exercises, there was no clear case for onward consideration of ENE specifically. However, we have been able to apply lessons learned to good effect and we are considering how increased use of ADR could be further encouraged across the civil, family and administrative justice system.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of non-payment of employment tribunal awards since 2009. [67397]

Mr Djanogly: While Employment Tribunals collate, and HMCTS regularly publishes, data on awards made, no data are collected on whether those awards are satisfied in individual cases. This is largely because of the difficulties in collecting any reliable data, particularly in the scenario where judgment creditors receive payment but then (understandably) fail to report that fact to the tribunal after the end of their case. In any event, once an award has been given, it falls to the claimant to enforce that award using the civil courts should they so wish.

In order to assist with the commencement of the enforcement process, the Ministry of Justice introduced, in April 2010, the ACAS and Employment Tribunal Fast Track. The Fast Track enables the claimant to have a High Court Enforcement Officer (HCEO) appointed to their case as soon as the respondent has defaulted in payment of the award. The HCEO will then take forward the enforcement process on behalf of the claimant.

In the first year, 1,495 unpaid employment tribunal awards have been issued using the Fast Track, resulting in 42.5% of those unpaid awards being fully recovered.

Employment Tribunals Service: Fees and Charges

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the start-up costs, including information technology costs, of a system to collect fees in the employment tribunal system; [67393]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely ongoing costs of introducing collection of fees in the employment tribunal system *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of estimated fee income; [67394]

(3) what *(a)* waivers and *(b)* other arrangements he proposes to introduce to ensure access to justice for vulnerable people should fees for employment tribunals be introduced; [67398]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on access to justice for disadvantaged groups of the introduction of fees for employment tribunals. [67399]

Mr Djanogly: We are in the process of developing proposals for the introduction of fees into the employment tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal and options are still being finalised. We will be consulting on our proposals later in the year.

Legal Aid Scheme: Negligence

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the capacity of parents to pay for initial expert reports necessary prior to obtaining after-the-event insurance in clinical negligence litigation in respect of their children. [66674]

Mr Djanogly: After-the-event insurance premiums can cover the cost of initial expert reports in clinical negligence cases funded under conditional fee agreements currently, and there is no reason why this should not continue once the Government's reforms are implemented.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 June 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Sahar Safdar. [67515]

Mr Djanogly: My right hon. and learned Friend Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice replied on 6 July. We apologise for the delay. A copy of his reply has been sent to the right hon. Member's office.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 7 June 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr J W Hargreaves. [67517]

Mr Djanogly: My right hon. and learned Friend Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice replied on 18 July. We are sorry for the delay in replying.

Prison Service: Retirement

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will reduce the retirement age for prison officers to 60; [67614]

(2) for what reasons the retirement age of frontline Prison Service staff is not in line with that of other frontline public sector workers. [67845]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 473W. The normal pension age (NPA) for Prison Service staff is in line with the relevant provisions of the principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS). Lord Hutton's final report on the proposed reform of public service pensions recommended that a pension age of 60 might be more appropriate for employees in uniformed services to recognise the unique nature of their job. Consultation will take place on what form this takes and whom it covers as part of the reform process.

Prisoners' Release: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners convicted of murder are *(a)* currently serving a custodial sentence and *(b)* have been released from custody in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those released from custody (i) are still residing in the UK, (ii) have returned to their country of origin and (iii) have unknown residential status. [61750]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows numbers of foreign national prisoners in England and Wales serving a custodial sentence for murder during each of the last 10 years:

	Number of prisoners
June 2002	308
June 2003	321
June 2004	337
June 2005	371
June 2006	392
June 2007	427
June 2008	469
June 2009	514
June 2010[1]	526
March 2011	573

[1] Due to the introduction of a new prison IT system, from 2010 on the prison population data is taken from a different source.

Note:

Excludes recalls

In 2010, the Parole Board directed the release of seven foreign national prisoners serving a life sentence for murder. Of these, one has been returned to custody, two are residing in the UK and being supervised on life licence by the probation service, and four have been deported. As with any other life sentence prisoner, a foreign national prisoner serving a life sentence for murder is eligible for release on parole only once he has completed the minimum period of imprisonment specified by the court and only where the Parole Board determines that it is no longer necessary, on the grounds of public protection, for him to be detained in custody.

Detailed data before 2010 are not held centrally in an electronic format. A manual trawl of prisoner files would be required to obtain these data; this would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Pregnancy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pregnant women were held in prison *(a)* on remand and *(b)* having been sentenced on the latest date for which figures are available. [66989]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of pregnant women in custody is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as in order to provide this information staff would need to look at each individual's record.

Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on prison and probation services, in what ways *(a)* HMP Latchmere House and *(b)* HMP Brockhill are (i) not considered to be fit for purpose and (ii) unable to deliver high quality, cost effective and secure regimes; and if he will make a statement. [67892]

Mr Blunt: There is currently a substantial gap between our available capacity and the actual population. We also have 2,500 spaces coming on line over the next 12 months and our assessment of the population projections is that there is now an opportunity to close places.

To determine which places could be closed there has been a rigorous economic and operational evaluation process of every establishment in the prison estate. This evaluation considered factors such as operating costs, outstanding maintenance issues and the geographic and strategic function that establishments provide to the rest of the Prison Service to identify prisons that can close during this financial year. The selection of which places to close is not based on performance of establishments.

These two sites provide the best option from those identified through our evaluation process to close the available gap between population and capacity. HMP Brockhill is in need of costly remedial work and there are options for the redeployment of staff. Having made the decision on HMP Brockhill, HMP Latchmere House was the best establishment to close given the size of the gap that remains, it occupies a valuable site whose sale will make a significant contribution to the savings target, and its staff can be redeployed at other establishments in the region.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on prison and probation services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis that determined that *(a)* HMP Latchmere House and *(b)* HMP Brockhill were (i) not considered to be fit for purpose and (ii) unable to deliver high quality, cost effective and secure regimes; and if he will make a statement. [67893]

Mr Blunt: The decision to close these two sites is not a reflection of performance at either establishment. It followed a rigorous economic evaluation of every establishment in the prison estate based on age and economic factors, including operating costs, outstanding maintenance issues and land value. This gave a ranked economic assessment of the prison estate which was then used as the basis for an operational assessment which considered the geographic and strategic function that each prison provides to the rest of the Prison Service and the possible staffing implications of closure. The process of selection and decision making was therefore not based on a single piece of analysis which can be placed in the Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representation his Department has had from individuals and community organisations in *(a)* Yorkshire, *(b)* Northumberland, *(c)* County Durham, *(d)* Northamptonshire and *(e)* Surrey on the need to improve services at prison establishments in those areas recently announced for market testing; and if he will make a statement. [67894]

Mr Blunt: Such representations could be received by a large number individuals and groups within the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service, and no central record is kept. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. The prisons announced for competition by the Secretary of State on 13 July 2011 were chosen because they form a balanced package that meets our competition priorities. We expect to obtain savings from each of these prisons, which will help the National Offender Management Service meet its revised budget for the spending review period. Individual prisons within the package also offer the potential for service innovation, as outlined in the Competition Strategy for Offender Services.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of women prisoners who have children under the age of 10 and are being held in the standard women's prisons estate were diagnosed as suffering from mental health problems in the last year for which figures are available; [67086]

(2) how many and what proportion of women prisoners who were being held in units where babies are kept with their mothers until the age of 18 months were diagnosed as suffering from mental health problems in the last year for which figures are available; [67092]

(3) how many and what proportion of women prisoners who were being held in units where babies are kept with their mothers until the age of 9 months were diagnosed as suffering from mental health problems in the last year for which figures are available. [67093]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not collected centrally, or in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Private Sector

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the criteria are which his Department uses to select prisons for market testing. [67611]

Mr Blunt: Prisons will be selected for competition, balancing the need for efficiencies, the desire to implement new policy models and encourage innovation, and the operational concerns of running a large dynamic system.

The criteria used to select the nine prisons announced for competition on 13 July 2011 are contained in the "Competition Strategy for Offender Services", published on the same day.

Prisons: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in construction of a prison in north Wales. [67781]

Mr Blunt: As part of the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010, plans to build new prisons were deferred for the spending review period. As a result, there are no current plans to build a new prison in north Wales.

However, long-term decisions on the prison capacity programme will be taken in the light of future policy developments.

Restraint Accreditation Board

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to receive the recommendations of the Restraint Accreditation Board; when he plans to respond to the recommendations; and whether he plans to make *(a)* the recommendations and *(b)* his response available to hon. Members. [66504]

Mr Blunt: We are due to receive and respond to advice from the Restraint Accreditation Board in the autumn following which we will communicate key outcomes with stakeholders and interested parties.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67142]

Mr Djanogly: Ministry of Justice officials hold discussions with officials from other Government Departments, including DEFRA, as necessary when developing justice policy. Officials also undertake equality impact assessments in order to assess the impact of MOJ policies on particular groups, including rural communities.

Theft: Metals

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were for metal theft in the last three years. [67519]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to separately identify those proceedings under the Theft Act 1968 specifically related to metal theft.

Third Sector

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since May 2010. [67538]

Mr Djanogly: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice have made visits to the following charitable and voluntary organisations since May 2010:

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke:

Change Project Nottingham—6 May 2011

The Rt. Hon. Lord McNally:

Turning Point—18 March 2011

The Hon. Crispin Blunt:

Koestler Trust—29 June 2010

Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust—1 July 2010

Corston Coalition—12 July 2010

Third Sector Advisory Group—14 July 2010

National Association of Care and Resettlement of Offenders (West Norwood Centre)—22 July 2010

Howard League/National Association of Care and Resettlement of Offenders/Liberty and Criminal Justice Alliance—3 September 2010

Koestler Exhibition—28 September 2010

Centre for Social Justice—5 October 2010

Catch 22—18 November 2010

Jagnari (Women's Educational Support Research Centre)—25 November 2010

Amber Project—1 April 2011

NEPACS—19 May 2011

The Hon. Jonathan Djanogly:

Barking Community Legal Advice Centre—27 May 2010

Wandsworth Citizens advice Bureau—3 July 2011

Child Concern conference—8 July 2011

Citizen's Advice Parliamentary Reception—6 July 2011.

Victims: British Nationals Abroad

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures he plans to introduce to support victims of crime and their families in cases where the crimes committed have been perpetrated overseas. [67140]

Mr Blunt: We are carrying out a review of services, support and compensation for victims and intend to consult on our proposals in the autumn. As part of the review we are considering the issue of compensation for victims of terrorism overseas.

Victims of crimes committed abroad are already entitled to support from the national charity Victim Support when they return to the UK.

In cases where a homicide has occurred abroad, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) now provide an automatic referral to Victim Support's National Homicide Service for bereaved families resident in England and Wales. The FCO has also agreed to provide £100,000 to Victim Support in this and the next financial year to help families bereaved by homicide abroad.

In cases of terrorism abroad, the FCO's exceptional assistance measures scheme provides financial assistance to British victims. In addition, UK resident victims of overseas terrorism may apply for financial relief to the Red Cross Relief Fund for UK Victims of Terrorism.

Young Offender Institutions: Violence

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that leisure items available in young offender institutions are not used as weapons against staff. [67610]

Mr Blunt: NOMS is committed to zero tolerance to violence in prisons. No act of violence is acceptable, be it verbal, physical or directed at property. Zero tolerance is a proactive approach to reducing prison violence in all its forms and is subject to ongoing assessment.

Prisoners rarely use weapons and especially not in assaults against staff. However, where items are used as weapons and the balance of risk suggests that removal of such items is justified, NOMS takes robust action. Following serious assaults on staff in 2010 using glass items, these were removed from the lists of items available for prisoners to purchase.

NOMS has recently completed a comprehensive review of its violence reduction policy and a revised national instruction, including further advice for governors, will be issued in the autumn of 2011.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirements there are on the *(a)* governing body and *(b)* head teacher of an academy to provide to the relevant local education authority information about the process followed in considering and determining an application for academy status for the purpose of responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [66383]

Mr Gibb: Academies, in the same way as maintained schools, are responsible for dealing with their own freedom of information requests. There are no requirements for governing bodies or head teachers to pass on any information to local authorities for the purposes of responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and this would include those related to applications for academy status.

Academies: ICT

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on which academy schools do not provide children with laptops. [67436]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the academy. The Department does not hold this information.

Academies: Primary Education

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria his Department has used to identify the 200 underperforming primary schools that will become academies in 2012-13; what the name of each such school is; and who is sponsoring each such academy. [64208]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The 200 underperforming primary schools have been identified as those that have not achieved minimum standards of performance for the previous five years.

The Department does not intend to publish a list of the 200 worst performing primary schools in England.

Academy sponsors have yet to be identified.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66608]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not maintain a central record of the number of apprenticeships created directly by contracts and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has issued any guidance to schools on the generation of low-carbon energy on their estates. [65417]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education (DfE) has produced a document on "How to Reduce Energy and Water use in Schools", which is available on the Department for Education's website. The DfE also encourages a number of low carbon and sustainable development initiatives, including those from the Sustainable Schools Alliance and the Carbon Trust's Collaborative Low Carbon Schools service.

The Government remain fully committed to sustainable development and the importance of preparing young people for the future. At the same time, we believe that schools perform better when they take responsibility for their own improvement. We want schools to make their own judgments on whether generating low-carbon energy on their estate is the best decision for them, and how sustainable development should be reflected in their ethos, day-to-day operations and teaching.

Departmental ICT

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance is issued to *(a)* staff and *(b)* special advisers in his Department on the use of private email accounts for communications relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [66782]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The guidance issued to *(a)* staff and *(b)* special advisers in the Department for Education on the use of private email accounts for communications relating to their official duties is as follows:

(a) for Departmental staff: "*Never* use non-DfE email services (such as your own personal internet email account on Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, AOL, MobileMe, etc) to carry out Departmental business." An extract from this guidance for DfE staff, covering the salient points, is shown in Annex A.

(b) for Ministers and special advisers: "*DON'T* use unofficial devices (such as your own/constituency PC/Laptop/PDA) or unofficial services (such as internet email accounts like Hotmail or Gmail) to access or hold DfE information. Only official devices and services have been tested and risk assessed to ensure they are secure enough for routine HMG business."

Special Advisers are bound by the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, paragraph 6 of which says that

> "Special Advisers should not use official resources for party political activity".

Annex A

Essential steps to protect information in DfE

Use only official DfE ICT systems, services and devices to access or store DfE information

Official DfE ICT (Information and Communications Technology), computing and telephony services, systems and devices, have been configured, risk assessed, and tested to ensure they are secure enough for Departmental business. Official DfE mobile devices (Laptops and BlackBerry's) have HM Government approved strong encryption enabled.

You should therefore:

Never use non-DfE devices (such as your own laptop, PC, Mac, PDA or memory stick) to access or store DfE Information.

Never use non-DfE email services (such as your own personal internet email account on Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, AOL, MobileMe, etc.) to carry out Departmental business.

Never set your 'Out of Office' message or email forwarding rules to direct official email to your personal internet email account.

If you have a compelling requirement to conduct DfE business when away from the office, but do not already have the appropriate DfE remote working tools to support this, talk to your line manager about making the business case.

Why is this so important?

The loss or compromise of personal or otherwise sensitive information that has not been adequately protected can have serious consequences including:

Financial loss, disruption to the work of the Department, or distress to citizens or staff;

Damage to DfE's reputation which could in turn lead to loss of public confidence in the services of our Department or of Government as a whole;

Breach of the Data Protection Act, which could lead to public censure of the Department by the Information Commissioner, whose statutory powers also include the right to impose fines on the Department of up to £500,000.

Use of unapproved ICT systems, services and devices could also put in jeopardy the Department's continued right to use the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) which we rely on for secure intra-government email and data sharing.

As well as breaching security rules the use of unapproved ICT systems, services and devices to conduct Government business also creates Information Management issues. For example: information not held on DfE ICT systems would not be searched when responding to a Freedom of Information (FoI) Request.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66607]

Tim Loughton: To get the information on what the annual value is of the Department's current contracts by sector could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish details of *(a)* meetings attended and *(b)* gifts and hospitality received by (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011. [66119]

Tim Loughton: The information will be published on the Department's website in due course.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the number of vulnerable pupils in each local education authority area who will be entitled to the maximum award from the education maintenance allowance replacement bursary fund; [66799]

(2) how many education maintenance allowance recipients in each local education area in 2011-12 have been defined as vulnerable. [66800]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education estimates that around 12,000 vulnerable young people nationally will be eligible to receive £1,200 from the new 16-19 bursary fund in the academic year 2011/12. This estimate was based on the number of young people in care, care leavers, young people living independently and those receiving welfare benefits in their own right who were participating in education and receiving the education maintenance allowance in England in 2010. The Department is not able to break down this estimate by provider, local authority or region.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many education maintenance allowance recipients in each school sixth form and college in London in 2010-11 were defined as vulnerable. [66801]

Mr Gibb: Under the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme payments were not made on the basis of a defined vulnerable group, but on the basis of an assessment of household income. For a small proportion of young people a household income assessment was not appropriate—this group included looked after children, those who applied while in custody, and those who could demonstrate that they were estranged from their parents. There were 1,664 such young people who were resident in London and receiving EMA in 2010-11.

Young parents with caring responsibility for their child were assessed on their own income and that of their partner. There were 69 young parents who were resident in London and receiving EMA in 2010-11.

In accordance with policy on data protection, where the numbers of young people in these categories would be equal to or less than five, they cannot be specified at the level of individual schools and colleges.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in each local authority area received education maintenance allowance in 2010-11. [66835]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many sixth formers in each school and college in London were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in 2010-11. [66834]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in York local authority area are in receipt of education maintenance allowance; and how many young people in that area he expects to benefit from the 16 to 19 years bursary scheme. [65597]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been allocated from the 16 to 19 bursary fund to each school and college in London for 2011-12. [66837]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

GCE A-level

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what discussions he has had with UCAS and A-level examination boards about errors in the marking of A-level papers; and if he will make a statement; [66286]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of A-level candidates likely to be affected by errors in the marking of A-level papers in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [66287]

(3) what representations he has received on errors in the marking of A-level examination papers in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [66288]

Mr Gibb: No representations concerning errors in A-level marking have been received by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education during the past six months. As regulator of the examination awarding bodies concerned, it is for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) to work with the awarding bodies to investigate any issues concerning A-level examination marking standards. Ofqual have not advised Education Ministers of any representations on this matter during the last six months. No forecast of A-level marking errors has been prepared for Ministers. While it is not feasible to eliminate all incidences of error from the initial marking process, Ministers expect that awarding bodies will always operate procedures to minimise marking errors, and that all suspected errors that are subsequently reported to them by schools will then be dealt with through the established inquiry and appeals mechanisms.

History: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnicity eligible for free school meals achieved a grade C or above in *(a)* history GCSE and *(b)* history A-level in 2010; how many pupils of each ethnicity were entered for (i) history GCSE and (ii) a history A-level in 2010; and how many were eligible for free school meals. [65365]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] entering GCSE history by ethnicity and free school meal (FSM) eligibility[3] in 2009/10

	Pupils entering GCSE history			
	All pupils		Pupils eligible for FSM	
Ethnicity	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils
White	147,436	30.9	9,072	17.3
Mixed	5,173	28.7	642	17.9
Asian	11,053	26.0	2,333	21.4
Black	6,006	24.9	1,506	20.4
Chinese	659	29.5	52	24.2
Other[4]	3,800	27.4	626	19.9
Total	174,127	30.1	14,131	18.3

Table 2: Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] achieving an A-C grade in GCSE history by ethnicity and FSM eligibility in 2009/10*

	Pupils achieving an A*-C grade in GCSE history			
	All pupils		Pupils eligible for FSM	
Ethnicity	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils
White	99,301	20.8	3,661	7.0
Mixed	3,497	19.4	313	8.7
Asian	7,653	18.0	1,305	12.5
Black	3,617	15.0	789	10.7
Chinese	571	25.5	33	15.3
Other[4]	2,579	18.6	344	10.9
Total	117,218	20.3	6,445	8.3

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs).
[2] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[3] FSM eligibility taken from the 2010 Spring School Census (January 2010).
[4] Includes pupils of any other ethnic group and for whom ethnicity was not obtained, refused or could not be determined.
Source:
National Pupil Database (final data)

Table 3: Number and percentage of students[1, 2] entering A-level history by ethnicity and FSM eligibility[3] in 2009/10

	Students entering A-level history			
	All students		Students eligible for FSM	
Ethnicity	Number of students	Percentage of students	Number of students	Percentage of students
White	30,984	11.6	728	5.8
Mixed	946	9.7	62	5.0
Asian	1,615	5.9	221	4.1
Black	907	6.5	140	4.8
Chinese	123	5.6	10	5.3
Other[4]	1,210	5.6	84	4.1
Total	35,785	10.5	1,245	5.1

Table 4: Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] achieving an A-C grade in A-level history by ethnicity and FSM eligibility[3] 2009/10*

	Students achieving an A*-C grade in A-level History			
	All students		Students eligible for FSM	
Ethnicity	Number of students	Percentage of students	Number of students	Percentage of students
White	24,023	9.0	486	3.9
Mixed	757	7.8	46	3.7
Asian	1,225	4.4	153	2.8
Black	661	4.7	102	3.5
Chinese	98	4.4	7	3.7
Other[4]	992	4.6	61	3.0
Total	27,756	8.1	855	3.5

[1] Maintained schools and FE sector colleges only. Students taking A levels in independent schools are not included.
[2] Students entered for a GCE or Applied GCE A level or other Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A level and aged 16-18 at the start of the 2009/10 academic year i.e. 31 August 2009.
[3] Students eligible for free school meals at the end of year 11.
[4] Includes students of any other ethnic group and for whom ethnicity or first language was not obtained, refused or could not be determined.
Source:
National Pupil Database (final data)

Home Education: Special Educational Needs

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to support parents of children with special educational needs who choose to home-educate. [66267]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has recently consulted on proposals in a Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper which include arrangements to give parents greater control over the choice of education provision for their children. The Secretary of State has no plans to change the current arrangements for supporting parents of children with special educational needs who choose to home educate. In 2010 the Department for Children, Schools and Families issued guidance to local authorities on their duties and powers in relation to home educated children with special educational needs. That guidance highlighted local authorities' powers to make provision for these children, to help parents ensure that home education is suitable for the child's needs. For home educated children with statements of special educational needs, local authorities are under a duty to ensure that the provision the parents are making is suitable and meets each child's special educational needs. The local authority must review statements at least annually.

Offences Against Children

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hampstead and Kilburn of 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 27W, on offences against children, what steps his Department has taken to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation in 2011. [66716]

Tim Loughton: On 5 April 2011 I chaired a roundtable meeting of senior representatives from organisations with wide-ranging knowledge and experience of child sexual exploitation. We recognised that much excellent work is being done around the country, especially by voluntary and community organisations who have a key role in reaching out to and engaging the most vulnerable children and young people. However, we identified a number of further actions that needed to be taken by the Government, working with national and local partners, to safeguard children and young people from this appalling form of child abuse.

On 17 May at an event organised by Barnardo's, I confirmed the Government's commitment to working with national and local partners to develop an action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation. Work on this action plan is under way, building on existing guidance and our developing understanding of this dreadful abuse, including through local agencies' work around the country. The action plan, which will be published in the autumn, will address issues of raising awareness and understanding; effective prevention and detection; the challenge of securing prosecutions; and the need to improve support for victims

The Government are determined to work with partners to ensure that everything possible is done to stamp out child sexual exploitation.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons the review of personal, social, health and economic education focusing on sex and relationships education and alcohol education has been suspended; and when it will be resumed. [66110]

Mr Gibb: The review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education has not been suspended; it has not started. PSHE education is an important subject and we are giving proper consideration to the review's remit, process and time scale. This will ensure that the review has the best chance of determining how schools can be supported to improve the quality of PSHE teaching and of how to give teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education.

Private Education: Scholarships

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 11 July 2011 on the Open Public Services White Paper, if he will make it his policy that independent schools may be able to provide places funded by the state only if the cost of doing so is no greater than the cost of providing a place in the state sector in the local education authority area. [66232]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* Local authorities may purchase places in independent schools, and the negotiation of fee levels for pupils placed in independent schools by local authorities is a matter for the local authority concerned. Independent schools can apply to become free schools and receive state funding, which would give them equivalent funding to other publicly-funded schools of a similar character in the same local authority area.

The majority of placements in independent schools are made to meet the specific needs of children with special education needs. The fees in these schools are therefore often much higher than the average cost of providing a place in a maintained school in the authority concerned. We have no plans to limit the ability of local authorities to pay fees to secure specialist provision they need.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to allocating funding through the pupil premium to schools which provide no school meals. [63895]

Mr Gibb: We have introduced the Pupil Premium to provide additional funding to schools to help raise the attainment of deprived pupils. Eligibility for the Pupil Premium is based on known eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) as the link between FSM eligibility and educational underachievement is strong. We aim to extend the coverage of the Pupil Premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for FSM.

We know that not all pupils eligible for FSM are registered. However, whether a school provides school meals more generally should not be a significant factor in this registration as a school or local authority must provide a meal for FSM pupils where valid requests for such meals are made. We have made it clear that we want all children eligible for free school meals to be registered so that Pupil Premium funding can be targeted correctly, and so they can choose to take a free meal to which they are entitled.

Pupils: Transport

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on changes to home-to-school transportation schemes. [66509]

Tim Loughton: The Department regularly receives correspondence from parents, local authorities, dioceses and other stakeholder groups regarding changes to home-to-school transport. Planning, procuring and providing school transport is the responsibility of local authorities and is funded directly from a combination of DCLG provided revenue support grant and any locally determined council tax.

Schools: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the ranking of examination boards in respect of examination question errors made in 2011; [66931]

(2) what reasons he has received from Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) for errors contained in the A-level physics examination paper of June 2011; [66932]

(3) on what date Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) informed Ofqual that they had checked their examination paper questions for errors; [66933]

(4) on what dates he received assurances from Ofqual that there were no further errors in examination questions for exams taken in summer 2011; [66934]

(5) how many errors in examination questions prepared by each examination board were corrected following an intervention by Ofqual in June 2011. [66935]

Mr Gibb: The errors that have come to light in GCSE and A-Level examination papers are extremely serious and are unacceptable. I can confirm that Ofqual has now announced that they are carrying out an inquiry to discover the causes of these errors. A copy of this inquiry will be placed in the House Libraries. The aims of the inquiry are to:

Establish the facts and find out the root causes of the errors;

Inform decisions about further regulatory action relating to the errors;

Consider how effectively the awarding bodies have communicated with candidates, schools, colleges and other stakeholders;

Identify any improvements necessary in awarding bodies' procedures; and

Consider arrangements for risk management and redress that should be used in the future and any implications for regulatory arrangements.

The inquiry will take into account information and views that Ofqual has already received from sources including exam candidates, schools and colleges, parents and student representatives.

Separate from the inquiry, the regulators will continue their work to monitor the actions being taken by the awarding bodies to make sure that candidates who have faced exam paper errors this summer are, as far as possible, not unfairly disadvantaged or advantaged.

I have asked Ofqual to write directly to the hon. Member, to provide the detail requested. A copy of their reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Broadband

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what studies his Department has made of the broadband speeds available to school students in rural areas; and what advice and support his Department has given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other school operators in this regard. [66840]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has not carried out a detailed study of broadband data rates in rural schools. Local authorities and regional broadband consortia (RBCs) typically make arrangements for schools broadband and should hold information on speeds available to their schools. However, individual institutions are able to opt out of this provision.

The Department for Education maintains a dialogue with RBCs and other providers and has encouraged them to look at any opportunities available from the Government's broadband strategy, led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, including additional funding for superfast broadband.

Schools: Freedom of Information

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure that academy and free schools remain within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [66730]

Mr Gibb: The Academies Act 2010 brought academies and free schools within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and there is no intention to change this.

Schools: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much central Government capital funding was allocated to schools in York in each year since 1996-97; and how much he expects to be allocated in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms (i) in total and (ii) per pupil in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [65595]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows allocations of central capital support to York local authority and its schools since 1996-97.

	£ million
1996-97	0.8
1997-98	1.3
1998-99	1.8
1999-2000	4.5
2000-01	7.4
2001-02	4.8
2002-03	9.2
2003-04	11.1
2004-05	[1]26.8
2005-06	10.7
2006-07	23.0
2007-08	19.3
2008-09	26.7
2009-10	23.1
2010-11	18.0
2011-12	[2]6.2

[1] Of which, £15.4 million of PFI credits.

[2] £253 per pupil—this is an estimate using pupil numbers taken from the January 2010 census and is consistent with those used for devolved formula capital allocations. In practice, funding streams have different methodologies consisting of lump sums, unit values dependent on phase, allocations based on growth forecasts, etc.

Future allocations covering the rest of the current spending review period, up to 2014-15, will be announced in due course.

Teachers: Misconduct

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many allegations of misconduct were made against teachers in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire in each year since 2008; and in how many cases the associated investigation found against the teacher. [66207]

Tim Loughton: This is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Teachers: Pensions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reinstate the quinquennial independent valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [67520]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011. The valuations remain on hold pending detailed consideration of the implications of the new discount rate.

Young People: Voluntary Work

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the value for money provided by the National Citizen Service. [65500]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* I discuss National Citizen Service (NCS) regularly with a range of stakeholders. A key requirement in the specification for NCS pilots is that organisations demonstrate innovation and set out creative and cost effective approaches to delivering the core principles of NCS.

Government investment in the NCS pilots, which is being met by the Cabinet Office, has been matched with considerable additional support secured locally through other funding sources and in-kind donations.

The Government have commissioned an independent evaluation of NCS and value for money is something it will be looking at to help identify the most cost-effective way forward, informed by evidence not conjecture.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether alcohol-related admission statistics are designated as national statistics; and whether they are published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's code of practice for official statistics. [66510]

Anne Milton: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care publish data about alcohol-related hospital admissions in two annual National Statistics publications:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) (admitted patient care) England
2. Statistics on Alcohol: England

They are designated as National Statistics and are published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority code of practice for official statistics.

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 84 of the NHS Information Centre's publication, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011, for what reasons 2002-03 is the baseline year for comparison of alcohol-related admissions over time; [66511]

(2) with reference to paragraph 4.4.1 of the NHS Information Centre's publication, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011, in what proportion of alcohol-related hospital admissions in 2009-10 the alcohol-specific condition was a secondary diagnosis; [66512]

(3) with reference to page 78 of the NHS Information Centre's publication, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011, what the updates were of the application of North West Public Health Observatory methodology which were made in summer 2010; [66513]

(4) with reference to paragraph 4.4.4 of the NHS Information Centre's publication, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011, which ICD-10 codes were added to the group of conditions wholly attributable to alcohol; and for what reasons such changes were made. [66514]

Anne Milton: In the NHS Information Centre's publication, "Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011", the series on admissions with an alcohol related condition goes back to 2002-03 as that is the earliest year for which estimates have been generated.

Estimates of the number of admissions with an alcohol related condition based on the current methodology were first generated in 2008. At that time, estimates were generated for the latest year for which hospital admissions data were available (2006-07) and retrospectively for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06. Estimates were not generated for years before 2002-03 primarily because the maximum number of diagnoses collected centrally for a hospital episode increased from seven to fourteen between 2001-02 and 2002-03, creating the possibility of a discontinuity in the series that might affect comparability.

The estimates for 2002-03 to 2006-07 were revised slightly in summer 2010. The revisions resulted from the inclusion of chronic hepatitis (K73) and psoriasis (L40), that had been previously been excluded unintentionally.

At a national level, the revisions ranged in scale from an increase of 543 admissions (0.07%) in 2005-06 to an increase of 2,946 (0.37%) in 2006-07.

With regard to paragraph 4.4.1, 74% of the estimated 1,057,000 admissions with a diagnosis of disease attributable to alcohol in 2009-10 did not involve a primary diagnosis attributable to alcohol.

With regard to paragraph 4.4.4, in the 2008 edition of the NHS Information Centre's publication, "Statistics on Alcohol: England", the following three ICD-10 codes were included in the figure for admissions with a diagnosis of diseases wholly-attributable to alcohol:

F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol

K70: Alcoholic liver disease

T51: Toxic effect of alcohol

In the 2011 edition, the following additional ICD-10 codes were included:

E24.4: Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome

G31.2: Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol

G62.1: Alcoholic polyneuropathy

G72.1: Alcoholic myopathy

I42.6: Alcoholic cardiomyopathy

K29.2: Alcoholic gastritis

K86.0: Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced)

X45: Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol

and the following ICD-10 codes were no longer included:

T51.2: Toxic effect of 2-Propanol

T51.3: Toxic effect of fusel oil

T51.8: Toxic effect of other alcohols

The changes have been applied to data from 2002-03. The changes were made to offer figures based on a more comprehensive set of diseases that are wholly attributable to alcohol, in line with the review undertaken by the North West Public Health Observatory published in "Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England".

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether patients admitted to NHS hospitals are asked if they have consumed any alcohol that day; and where such information is recorded; [66647]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 56W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, what the source was of alcohol consumption data used to calculate alcohol-related admissions for 2009-10. [66648]

Anne Milton: There is no central requirement for patients admitted to national health service hospitals to be asked if they have consumed any alcohol that day, although that may happen locally in some settings and such information may be recorded on some local systems.

The estimates of admissions with a diagnosis of diseases attributable to alcohol in 2009-10 in the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 56W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse were based on the method developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). The method makes use of the internationally applied concept of attributable fractions. In the case of alcohol-related admissions, an attributable fraction represents the estimated percentage of admissions that can be attributed to alcohol consumption. The NWPHO estimated fractions for the 47 conditions for which there was sufficient epidemiological evidence that the risk of morbidity is significantly affected by alcohol consumption. In some cases, such as alcoholic liver disease, the conditions are wholly attributable to alcohol, in which case the attributable fraction is one or 100%. In the case of partially attributable conditions, the fractions often vary by age and sex. The list includes chronic conditions such as some cancers, acute conditions such as ethanol poisoning, and external causes such as road accidents. For most conditions, NWPHO estimated the attributable fraction for a condition by combining information from epidemiological studies on the risk of different levels of alcohol consumption, with information on alcohol consumption among adults in England from the 2005 General Household Survey. Information on the primary and secondary diagnoses recorded for each admission is then used in combination with the fractions to estimate the number of admissions involving an alcohol-related condition.

Continuing Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many representations he has received from *(a)* patient groups, *(b)* health charities and *(c)* employees of his Department on the accuracy of the decision support tool for NHS Continuing Care in assessing people with fluctuating conditions; [66384]

(2) for what reasons a person diagnosed with a degenerative condition who has been awarded NHS Continuing Care may have it withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [66423]

Paul Burstow: The Department receives a large number of representations from individual patients, patient groups and stakeholders on the accuracy of decision support tool assessments of people for continuing healthcare. It is not possible to say how many of these represent patients with fluctuating conditions.

Those receiving continuing healthcare are subject to a re-assessment, on at least an annual basis, to determine their current care needs. Those who no longer meet the eligibility criteria will no longer receive continuing healthcare, but may be eligible for alternative health and social care services.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the decision support tool for NHS Continuing Care in assessing the needs of people with *(a)* fluctuating conditions, *(b)* long-term conditions and *(c)* Parkinson's disease; [66385]

(2) what assessment he has made of the provision of NHS Continuing Care for people with *(a)* Parkinson's disease and *(b)* long-term conditions; and if he will make a statement; [66420]

(3) how many people with Parkinson's disease in England were awarded NHS Continuing Care in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [66421]

Paul Burstow: National health service-funded continuing health care is a package of care designed for people with a primary health need. The actual services provided as part of that package are tailored to meet the specific health and social care needs of the individual. As eligibility for continuing health care is not condition specific, we have not made any assessment of provision for people living with specific medical conditions.

Information on the number of people in receipt of continuing health care, diagnosed with specific medical conditions, is not collected centrally.

We have no assessment of the accuracy of the decision support tool for specific medical conditions. Assessment for continuing health care is made by a multi-disciplinary team who use their clinical expertise to make an assessment of an individual's needs based on all the existing available evidence.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which body or bodies will be responsible for *(a)* determining eligibility for NHS Continuing Care and *(b)* the independent appeals process in relation to NHS Continuing Care under the proposals contained in the Health and Social Care Bill; and if he will make a statement; [66422]

(2) what consideration he has given to reviewing the decision support tool for NHS Continuing Care following the report of the Dilnot Commission; and if he will make a statement. [66675]

Paul Burstow: It is proposed that those functions currently the responsibility of primary care trusts will transfer to clinical commissioning groups while those functions currently the responsibility of strategic health authorities will transfer to the NHS Commissioning Board.

We are currently considering the implications of the Dilnot report.

Advertising

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms in each year since 1997-98; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [66698]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables outline the specific costs relating to the Department's advertising spend during the financial year 1997-98 to 2003-04 and advertising spend broken down into television, radio and newspaper media for 2004-05 onwards. To provide a breakdown from 1997 to 2004 would incur disproportionate cost.

The financial information is not available in the format requested and to provide the information in real and nominal terms would incur disproportionate costs.

Department of Health media spend, 1997-98 to 2003-04 financial years

	£ million
1997-98	2.04
1998-99	8.53
1999-2000	15.70
2000-01	20.78
2001-02	20.35
2002-03	24.85
2003-04	41.12

Department of Health media spend on radio, television and newspapers, 2004-05 to 2010-11 financial years

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Television	17.77	13.82	11.05	10.25	23.73	28.73	1.33
Radio	3.74	4.09	3.53	3.16	5.10	6.58	0.57
Newspapers	8.74	5.22	4.60	4.93	11.88	10.79	1.86
Total	30.25	23.13	19.18	18.34	40.71	46.10	3.76

[1] Figures are provisional.

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information (COI) commission and VAT).

2. These figures do not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000.

3. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by national health service organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this spreadsheet reflects central Departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors; [66609]

(2) what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held; [66610]

(3) how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66611]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not have a specific procurement policy relating to the provision of apprenticeships or other training requirements in relation to prime contractors or those within the extended supply chain.

The Department has calculated the annual value of contracts through a subset of the purchase order information contained within its Business Management System.

The following table shows the number of contracts and monetary value.

Category		*Total spend (£)*
Clinical and Medical		45,470,165.81
	Medical and Surgical Consumables	3,000.00
Clinical and Medical Total		45,473,165.81
Construction	Building Repair and Maintenance	166,754.18
Construction Total		166,754.18
Energy and Utilities	Electricity	15,276.56
	Gas	4,500.00
	Water	9,079.64
Energy and Utilities Total		28,856.20
Facilities	Accommodation Services	1,325,994.26
	Building Management	22,308,320.97
	Catering	83,601.83
	Cleaning	58,458.64
	Food	16,150.05
	Office Furniture	131,834.41
	Security	15,026.28
Facilities Total		23,939,386.44

Category		*Total spend (£)*
Fuels Lubricants and Gases	Fuels	21,272.56
Fuels Lubricants and Gases Total		21,272.56
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Hardware	887,810.07
	Maintenance and Support	93,698,198.35
	Managed/Outsourced Services	36,715,745.77
	Networking	39,570,534.35
	Software	1,010,160.71
	Systems Delivery	1,045,659.90
	Telecoms	1,390,965.34
ICT Total		174,319,074.49
Logistics	Supply Chain Business Process Outsourcing	1,616,275.00
	Warehousing and Storage	577,696.07
Logistics Total		2,193,971.07
Marketing and Media	Advertising	3,475.40
	Communication Services	409,976.13
	Marketing	61,291.33
	Promotion	92,302.79
Marketing and Media Total		567,045.65
Office Solutions	Office Consumables	3,058.10
	Office Machines	117,595.99
	Office Supplies	114,098.66
	Print	1,680,601.85
	Records Storage	150,563.53
	Reprographics	91,129.74
Office Solutions Total		2,157,047.87
Operational Goods and Services	Clothing	9,056.45
	Learning and Development Materials	14,758.00
	Learning and Development Services	15,174.00
Operational Goods and Services Total		38,988.45
Personnel Related	Events Admissions	29,414.31
	HR Business Process Outsourcing	699,224.81
	Professional Subscriptions	22,361.00
	Staff Childcare	17,509.50
	Staff Health and Safety	441,135.11
	Staff Medical Care	57,426.10
	Staff Relocation	13,509.25
	Staff Subscriptions	33,378.10
Personnel Related Total		1,313,958.18
Professional Services	Temporary Workers	169,258.27
Professional Services Total		169,258.27
Professional Services Consultancy	Finance Consultancy	2,457,986.73
	Human Resource Training and Education Consultancy	39,498.78
	IT/IS Consultancy	745,856.26
	Legal Consultancy	329,129.90
	Marketing and Communications Consultancy	1,098,115.30
	Organisation and Change Management Consultancy	1,212,820.67
	PPM Consultancy	1,837,628.06
	Property and Construction Consultancy	63,933.58
	Strategy Consultancy	134,037.01
	Technical Consultancy	3,573.05
Professional Services Consultancy Total		7,922,579.34
Professional Services Financial Services	Accountancy Services	775,085.18
	Audit Services	596,818.40
	Credit Services	60,583.94
	Finance Business Process Outsourcing	27,472.64
	Pension Services	152,759.82
Professional Services Financial Services Total		1,612,719.98
Professional Services Learning and Development	Careers Development Services	179,233.06
	Staff Training and Development	1,970,970.22
Professional Services Learning and Development Total		2,150,203.28
Professional Services Other	Business Process Outsourcing Services	204,753,574.07
	Clinical Support Services	661,638.41
	Communication Services	39,135.00
	Environmental Services	4,670.50
	Interpretation and Translation Services	8,295.68
	Legal Services	8,665,367.29
	Operational Services	30,478,176.11
	Outsourcing	193,158.90
Professional Services Other Total		244,804,015.96
Professional Services Technical Services	Engineering Services	5,975.00
Professional Services Technical Services Total		5,975.00
Professional Services Temporary Staff	Interim Managers	1,570,168.41
	Specialist Contractors	27,388,853.20
	Temporary Workers	3,946,458.54
Professional Services Temporary Staff Total		32,905,480.15

Category		Total spend (£)
Social Care	Adult Social Care	46,000.00
	Child Social Care	4,470.00
	Emergency Services	207,474.81
Social Care Total		257,944.81
Travel	Booking Services	59,048.38
	Events Organisation	345,623.24
	Rail	2,594,756.40
	Taxi	22.50
	Travel and Subsistence Non Staff	39,241.43
Travel Total		3,038,691.95
Vehicles	Fleet Management	237.60
	Leasing	5,933.12
Vehicles Total		6,170.72
Waste Management	Waste Management Services	790.44
Waste Management Total		790.44
Grand Total		543,093,350.79

From the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the category breakdown reflected what was published in the annual Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey, and therefore the table does not include Connecting for Health expenditure.

The Department is currently aware of two apprenticeship placements that work directly on contracts awarded by the Department and these are within the ICT arena.

Departmental Billing

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many late payments his Department has made to contractors in each year since 1997-98; and what the total cost to the public purse was of any *(a)* penalty and *(b)* interest charges incurred. [66700]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department operates standard contractual payment terms of 30-days and any payments that are delayed beyond that date may be subject to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. The Act states that suppliers who are not paid within 30-days of the receipt of the invoice by the party billed are entitled to claim interest on the delayed payment at a rate of 8% above the Bank of England base reference rate. Penalty payments may be due where a small or medium sized business obtains a ruling that any contract terms that were applied were grossly unfair.

Details of the penalty and interest charges paid by the Department in each financial year since 1997-98 are given in the following table. Data are only available from 2001-02 when the Department introduced an Oracle based finance system (Vista), which allowed for such payment information to be collected.

	Number of late payments	Penalty charges (£)	Interest charges (£)
1997-98	n/a	0	0
1998-99	n/a	0	0
1999-2000	n/a	0	0
2000-01	n/a	0	0
2001-02	19,791	0	0
2002-03	17,412	0	0
2003-04	12,332	0	0
2004-05	21,802	0	0
2005-06	11,209	0	0
2006-07	9,929	135,000	0
2007-08	1,953	0	0
2008-09	1,161	0	91
2009-10	1,855	0	0
2010-11	1,525	0	183

It should be noted that these data cover all payments made by the Department and therefore includes both commercial and non-commercial suppliers. No separate analysis of 'contractor' payments is available.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66754]

Mr Simon Burns: Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011, the Department of Health delivered a reduction of 15.9% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government Commitments, it is now committed to deliver a 25% reduction in green house gases by 2014-15.

It is estimated that from the office estate for June 2010 The Department's non-weather corrected emissions amounted to some 976.1 tonnes carbon dioxide.

It is estimated that the Department's non-weather corrected emissions for June 2011 amounted to some 891 tonnes carbon dioxide.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66577]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table outlines information technology losses and thefts in the last financial year and is the latest information held. No losses of other departmental property have been reported. No distinction is made between items lost or stolen.

Department losses and thefts 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Items	Number	Replacement value (£)
Laptops	10	8,666.20
Mobile telephones and BlackBerrys	50	9,144.67
Other items (chargers, cartridges and tokens)	30	4,204.73
Total	90	22,015.60

Departmental Mobile Phones

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was to the public purse of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* handset purchase of (i) mobile telephones and (ii) BlackBerrys provided to staff in his Department in each year since 1997-98. [66664]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is unable to provide the information for the entire period requested or in the format required without incurring disproportionate cost. The following table provides details of the total amount spent on mobile phone services from 2006-07 to 2010-11.

Included within these total costs are handset and line rental contracts, call and data charges for both mobile phone and BlackBerry devices, together with 3G data cards. The Department does not pay insurance for mobile handsets.

Mobile telephony expenditure 2006-11

Financial year	*Total costs (£)*
2006-07	780,987
2007-08	760,973
2008-09	897,002
2009-10	982,239
2010-11	687,193

Departmental Official Cars

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* ministerial chauffeurs in each year since 1997-98. [66668]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the costs of cars leased by the Department to staff since 1997-98 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding the costs of ministerial chauffeurs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bristol West (Stephen Williams) on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1055-56W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since 12 May 2010. [67714]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is unable to provide information on how much has been spent on hospitality for staff since 12 May 2010, as we do not collect information at this level of detail, it is not required for our statutory reporting and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's Code of Business Conduct states that a blanket ban on accepting or providing hospitality is neither practical nor desirable from a business point of view. However, there must be a real business benefit to providing or accepting hospitality, as public money must not be used to fund occasions such as social gatherings, retirement or office parties.

This is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Photographs

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on Ministerial photoshoots and videos since May 2010. [67711]

Mr Simon Burns: Since May 2010, the Department has spent £537.43 on official photographs of Ministers and has incurred no costs for video.

Departmental Redundancy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67535]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any civil servant redundant since May 2010. However, we ran a voluntary exit scheme in January 2011, and have also released a small number of staff on pre-2010 terms under the principal civil service compensation scheme.

The total cost of these pre-2010 terms exits between May 2010 and the end of the 2010-11 financial year was £492,039 for initial (year 1) costs and £790,627 set aside to cover future years' annual compensation payments.

The cost of the January 2011 exit scheme totalled £19,373,071, all accounted for in the 2010-11 financial year.

There has been no central departmental spend so far on exits in 2011-12.

Departmental Stationery

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department in each year from 1997-98. [66667]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on stationery spend is not held centrally before 2006. Spend on stationery purchased through the stationery contract for the Department since 2006 is as follows:

April to March each year	*£*
2005-06	1,648,905.29
2006-07	1,472,923.37
2007-08	776,550.73
2008-09	690,632.74
2009-10	404,888.66
2010-11	231,049.81

Departmental Training

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since 12 May 2010; and what the purpose was of such training. [67533]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has paid £500 on media training for one member of the ministerial team since 12 May 2010.

Departmental Travel

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department in each year since 1997-98. [66665]

Mr Simon Burns: Data from our central travel contracts is not available before April 2004. It is not possible to distinguish between the traveller without incurring disproportionate cost. The cost of first class rail travel and all rail travel from the central travel contract is as follows:

£

April to March each year	*First class rail*	*Total rail spend*
2004-05	3,143,724	3,787,008
2005-06	4,004,085	5,369,085
2006-07	3,094,069	4,675,029
2007-08	3,594,495	5,271,933
2008-09	4,795,247	7,231,797
2009-10	3,647,863	6,751,888
2010-11	1,028,718	4,216,641

Departmental Visits Abroad

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* staff and *(c)* special advisers in his Department in each year since 1997; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [66697]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

E. coli

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of E. coli there have been in the last five years. [66637]

Anne Milton: *E. coli* bloodstream infections are caused by a variety of strains of *E. coli.* Table 1 gives the numbers of bloodstream infections caused by *E. coli* each year for the last five years in England and Wales, reported under voluntary reporting arrangements. Due to a 36% increase in the number of reports between 2006 and 2010, from 1 June 2011 *E. coli* bloodstream infection data are collected by mandatory enhanced surveillance.

Table 1: E. coli bacteraemia annual totals for England and Wales, 2006-10

	E. coli bacteraemia
2006	19,215
2007	21,300
2008	23,076
2009	24,684
2010	26,068

E. coli 0157 is an important cause of severe gastrointestinal disease. Table 2 gives the numbers of cases of *E. coli* 0157 each year for the last five years in England and Wales.

Table 2: E. coli 0157 annual totals for England and Wales, 2006-10

	Number of E. coli 0157 cases
2006	1,001
2007	828
2008	950
2009	1,034
2010	793

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to prevent an outbreak of E. coli. [66638]

Anne Milton: The UK Zoonoses, Animal Disease and Infections Group, a cross-Government multi-agency group, chaired by the chief medical officers of the four Administrations, continues to maintain policy oversight of *E. coli* 0157.

Following the 2005 *E. coli* outbreak in South Wales, the Food Standards Agency established a comprehensive Food Hygiene Delivery Programme aimed at improving controls in food manufacture, provision of guidance for food businesses on controlling the risk of cross-contamination from *E. coli* 0157, securing enhanced training for enforcement officers involved in monitoring food businesses, and commissioning research to inform enforcement approaches.

The Department has worked with the Health Protection Agency, Department for Food Environment and Rural Affairs and the Health and Safety Executive to produce new guidance for the public on avoiding infection when visiting open farms. This is published on the Health Protection Agency's website and is available to download as leaflets for use by operators of open farms. Also in collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive, revised guidance for operators of open farms has been published on preventing infection, particularly *E. coli* 0157 infection.

In addition, new guidance has been published jointly by the Health Protection Agency, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to raise awareness of general practitioners and other health care professionals about the importance of correct management and treatment of bloody diarrhoea in children.

Information is provided for all pregnant women on avoiding infection which includes prevention of *E. coli* 0157 infection.

Epilepsy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with the Royal Colleges on information for epilepsy patients on the management of and risks associated with the condition; [67508]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of sudden unexplained death in epilepsy among those diagnosed with epilepsy; [67510]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of sudden unexplained death in epilepsy; [67511]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of avoidable epilepsy-related deaths in childhood following the National Sentinel Clinical Audit of Epilepsy-Related Deaths in 2002. [67512]

Paul Burstow: Detailed information for those living with epilepsy has been made available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/epilepsy/pages/introduction.aspx

The NHS Choices website also includes information on sudden unexplained death in epilepsy highlighting the associated risk factors.

The Department has concentrated in ensuring that those diagnosed with epilepsy have access to detailed information and quality service provision. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has produced clinical guidelines for the diagnosis, management and treatment of epilepsy. This guidance, published in October 2004, specifically covers the importance of informing patients and their families of the risks of sudden death in epilepsy.

In response to the National Sentinel Clinical Audit, the then chief medical officer launched his Epilepsy Action Plan in February 2003, which addressed the key findings and recommendations of the clinical audit. The Epilepsy Action Plan was closely followed, in October 2004, by clinical guidelines from NICE and the National Service Framework for Long-Term Neurological Conditions, in March 2005.

The Department has had no recent conversations with the Royal colleges on information for epilepsy patients on the management and risks associated with this condition.

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will bring forward proposals to create a mandatory requirement for GPs to follow National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [67509]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to do so.

It is for clinicians to decide on the best treatment for their patients based on the patient's individual circumstances and taking any relevant guidance, including that from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), into account.

Primary care trusts are legally obliged to fund drugs and treatments recommended in NICE technology appraisal guidance, within three months of guidance being published, unless the requirement is waived in a specific case.

In view of their complexity and because of the different states of readiness for implementation in the national health service, NICE clinical guidelines are not subject to the same statutory funding direction as NICE's technology appraisals.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the total amount of monies owed by foreign nationals that the NHS is in the process of attempting to recover. [65866]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1179W, by the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns).

The Department has not made an estimate of the total amount of monies owed by foreign nationals that the national health service is in the process of attempting to recover.

Ministers announced on 18 March 2011 that the Government will conduct a full, wide-ranging review of the rules and practices relating to charging overseas visitors for using the NHS.

Health: Research

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of research expenditure by *(a)* the National Institute for Health Research and *(b)* the Medical Research Council has been spent in institutions located in (i) London, (ii) Oxford and Cambridge and (iii) the remainder of England in each of the last three years; and what the receiving institution was in respect of each grant or payment. [66454]

Mr Simon Burns: Government investment in health research in England is made principally by the Department of Health, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, through the Medical Research Council (MRC).

Research expenditure by the NIHR is shown in the following table:

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
	£ million	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*
London	318.1	44.1	268.7	34.3	275.3	33.2
Oxford	37.2	5.1	48.1	6.1	51.4	6.2
Cambridge	39.5	5.5	42.8	5.5	43.7	5.2
England excluding London, Oxford and Cambridge	318.9	44.2	414.2	52.9	447.3	53.9
Outside England	8.2	1.1	9.2	1.2	12.2	1.5
Total	721.9	100.0	783.0	100.0	829.9	100.0

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NFTSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at:

www.netscc.ac.uk/

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Expenditure by the MRC in English regions, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and overseas is shown in the following table:

	2007-03		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	£000	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*
Total	543,003	100	646,628	100	698,191	100
Grants	205,364	38	266,771	41	287,714	41
Studentships	50,135	9	59,651	9	69,380	10
of which Fellows	32,566	6	40,220	6	46,323	7
of which Students	17,569	3	19,430	3	23,057	3
Establishments/institutes	240,121	44	263,146	41	270,127	39
International subscriptions	12,379	2	15,316	2	17,812	3
Central expenses	35,004	6	41,744	6	53,158	8
England	417,927	77	489,388	76	531,049	76
Grants	180,881	33	229,527	35	253,418	36
Studentships	41,711	8	48,455	7	56,737	8
Establishments/institutes	195,335	36	211,406	33	220,894	32
East England	86,059	16	96,428	15	99,591	14
Grants	23,024	4	26,347	4	24,645	4
Studentships	5,159	<1	7,038	1	7,119	1
Establishments/institutes	57,877	11	63,043	10	67,826	10
East Midlands	17,184	3	19,669	3	21,335	3
Grants	6,229	1	7,997	1	10,312	1
Studentships	1,216	<1	1,435	<1	1,324	<1
Establishments/institutes	9,739	2	10,237	2	9,699	1
London	166,862	31	200,998	31	212,013	30
Grants	56,414	10	77,205	12	83,363	12
Studentships	17,584	3	19,453	3	21,371	3
Establishments/institutes	92,863	17	104,340	16	107,279	15
North East	6,104	1	7,820	1	7,668	1
Grants	4,991	<1	6,561	1	6,456	<1
Studentships	1,114	<1	1,259	<1	1,212	<1
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
North West	31,889	6	29,179	5	32,805	5
Grants	28,805	5	25,687	4	29,647	4
Studentships	3,084	<1	3,492	<1	3,158	<1
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
South East	76,576	14	96,465	15	89,913	13
Grants	36,839	7	54,900	8	45,906	7
Studentships	6,737	1	7,868	1	7,967	1
Establishments/institutes	33,000	6	33,697	5	36,040	5
South West	12,503	2	14,770	2	14,561	2
Grants	8,607	2	12,606	2	12,262	2
Studentships	2,040	<1	2,075	<1	2,250	<1
Establishments/institutes	1,857	<1	89	<1	49	<1
West Midlands	10,352	2	12,615	2	19,286	3
Grants	7,677	1	9,606	1	17,204	2
Studentships	2,675	<1	3,009	<1	2,082	<1
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
Yorkshire	10,398	2	11,445	2	33,875	5
Grants	8,296	2	8,619	1	23,623	3
Studentships	2,102	<1	2,826	<1	10,253	1
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
Scotland	50,797	9	64,642	10	65,827	9
Grants	18,265	3	26,632	4	25,712	4
Studentships	6,955	1	9,122	1	10,834	2
Establishments/institutes	25,577	5	28,888	4	29,281	4
Wales	5,906	1	7,744	1	8,824	1
Grants	4,755	<1	5,772	<1	7,090	1
Studentships	1,151	<1	1,972	<1	1,734	<1

	2007-03		2008-09		2009-10	
	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
Northern Ireland	860	<1	1,254	<1	1,478	<1
Grants	795	<1	1,168	<1	1,408	<1
Studentships	65	<1	86	<1	70	<1
Establishments/institutes	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
Overseas	20,131	4	26,540	4	20,044	3
Grants	670	<1	3,672	<1	86	<1
Studentships	253	<1	16	<1	5	<1
Establishments/institutes	19,208	4	22,852	4	19,953	3

Notes:
1. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Details of current and recent MRC research funding can be found on the MRC research portfolio database at:

www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Heatstroke

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated in hospital for heatstroke between 2005 and 2010; and how many deaths there were from heatstroke in that period. [65777]

Anne Milton: The following table gives the number of finished consultant episodes of those treated in hospital with a primary diagnosis of heatstroke or sunstroke from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1] with a primary diagnosis of 'heatstroke and sunstroke'[2], 2005-06 to 2009-10[3]

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	FCEs
2009-10	61
2008-09	35
2007-08	41
2006-07	110
2005-06	70

[1] Finished consultant episode (FCE).
A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
[2] Primary diagnosis:
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
ICD-10 codes used:
T67.0 Heatstroke and sunstroke
[3] Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The following table provides the number of deaths where the heatstroke or sunstroke was the cause of death in England, for 2005 to 2010 (the latest year available). It should be noted that heatstroke does not appear as the primary underlying cause of death, as the primary cause field in such cases is used to indicate the mode of death (e.g. accident, suicide). Deaths with a cause of heatstroke and sunstroke are therefore identified by the appearance of ICD-10 code T67.0 in the secondary cause field.

Number of deaths with a cause of heatstroke or sunstroke, England, 2005-10[1, 2, 3, 4], all persons

	Deaths
2005	0
2006	3
2007	1
2008	1
2009	0

[1] Cause of death from heatstroke and sunstroke was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T67.0, where this code appeared as the secondary cause.
[2] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
[3] Boundaries assigned using the May 2011 National Statistics Postcode Directory.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Heroin: Offenders

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on heroin offenders, if he will make it his policy to routinely collect data on the number and proportion of prisoners who take a heroin overdose within two weeks of their release which results in *(a)* emergency treatment and *(b)* death; and if he will make a statement. [66505]

Paul Burstow: The Government currently have no plans to introduce central reporting on heroin overdoses following release from prison. Hospital accident and emergency services will not ordinarily be aware of a patient's legal history and whether he or she had recently been released from prison. Disclosing this information would require a resourced evaluation with ethical approval and specific patient consent.

Hotels

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department in each year since 1997-98. [66666]

Mr Simon Burns: Data from our central contracts are not available before April 2006. It is not possible to distinguish between the class of hotel or traveller without incurring disproportionate cost.

The cost of hotel accommodation from the central contract data are as follows:

	£
April 2006 to March 2007	447,318.79
April 2007 to March 2008	1,247,608.81
April 2008 to March 2009	1,633,839.11
April 2009 to March 2010	1,752,877.82
April 2010 to March 2011	1,327,827.22
April 2011 to date	189,924.52

Infectious Diseases

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated for infectious tropical diseases in each of the last five years. [65864]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects data on reported cases of tropical infectious diseases of public health significance such as cholera, leprosy, malaria, yellow fever, chikungunya, dengue fever, filariasis, Japanese encephalitis, schistosomiasis and trypanosomiasis. Their epidemiological data on travel-related tropical infections is published on the HPA's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/TravelHealth/EpidemiologicalData/

Liver Diseases

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* budget and *(c)* timetable for reporting is of the National Clinical Director for Liver Disease. [66444]

Mr Simon Burns: Professor Martin Lombard was recruited as the National Clinical Director for Liver Disease in January 2010. His remit was to provide clinical leadership to the development of a national strategy for liver disease that matches measures designed to achieve quality improvement (and improvements in outcomes for patients) with the identification of where the national health service might release resources to support them. The National Liver Strategy will be an integrated programme, recommending actions to improve the prevention, identification, treatment, care and support of people with liver disease within evidence-based and dignity assured standards of care. Professor Lombard's budget for this task (net of core staffing costs) has been £560,000 in 2010-11, and £224,440 in 2011-12.

As previously announced, Professor Lombard is working towards a timetable of publishing a draft strategy in autumn 2011.

Lung Cancer: Health Services

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the updated National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer is adopted by all NHS trusts. [66804]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of national health service trusts to take account of the updated clinical guidance on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in April 2011. This best practice guidance, developed through wide consultation, is intended to support clinicians in clinical practice but does not replace their knowledge and skills in managing patients.

NICE is developing Quality Standards for a number of cancers, including lung cancer, which will act as markers of high quality, cost-effective patient care in the reformed NHS. The NICE Lung Cancer Quality Standard will be based on the updated NICE lung cancer clinical guideline.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients with a lung cancer diagnosis in *(a)* Knowsley Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England were given easy-to-understand written information about lung cancer at the time of their diagnosis in each year since 2000; [66805]

(2) how many patients with a lung cancer diagnosis in *(a)* Knowsley Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England were given a choice of different types of treatment for their condition before their treatment started in each year since 2000. [66806]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held in the format requested. The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, published in December 2010, recorded the responses of over 60,000 cancer patients in England, from the ages of 16 and upwards, to a wide range of questions.

These questions included those concerning the provision of written information and the offer of a choice of treatment. The response of lung cancer patients to questions on these issues has been presented nationally and by trusts serving the Knowsley area as shown in the table.

The survey did not report data where fewer than 20 people in a particular group answered a particular question.

		Percentage
Trust	*Lung cancer patients reporting being given written information about the type of cancer they had*	*Lung cancer patients reporting being given a choice of different types of treatment*
England	61	81
St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust	58	n/a
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a

Mass Media

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month since May 1997. [66699]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold central records on the cost of media coverage evaluation and attempting to gather information for each month since 1997 would incur disproportionate costs.

Medical Equipment

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the cases brought by his Department and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency against Jbol Ltd and Mr Orde Levinson between February 2009 and June 2011. [67707]

Mr Simon Burns: As a matter of course, a set of costs are sought from investigators at the close of each prosecution. These are added to the legal office costs to reach a total. If a defendant is convicted, there would normally be an application for prosecution costs. If the defendant is acquitted, there is no application for costs. As Mr Levinson and Jbol Ltd were acquitted, the costs schedule was prepared but was never presented to the court. The costs up to that date were £45,260.41. No costs have been calculated for the other case where a prosecution was not pursued.

Myeloid Leukaemia: Medical Treatments

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to reach a decision on the use of second-line treatments for chronic myeloid leukaemia. [66389]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising dasatinib, high-dose imatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia and dasatinib and nilotinib for people with chronic myeloid leukaemia for whom treatment with imatinib has failed because of intolerance.

We understand that NICE currently expects to issue its final guidance to the national health service in September 2011, subject to any appeal.

NHS Direct: Freeview Service

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing NHS Direct through Freeview in each financial year since the introduction of the service. [66701]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is available in the following table:

Cost of NHS Direct interactive on digital television

	£000
2006-07	4,077
2007-08	4,491
2008-09	3,276

Note:
The figures in the table include the cost of providing NHS direct interactive on both Freeview and Sky Digital satellite TV.
Source:
NHS Direct Annual Reports 2006-07—2008-09

NHS Direct Interactive was launched on Freeview on 20 December 2006. NHS Direct stopped providing this service on 1 April 2009, and the service was transferred to NHS Choices.

NHS: Incentives

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total expenditure incurred through the payment of clinical excellence awards in respect of *(a)* the money paid as awards and *(b)* the resultant pensions liability in each year since 1997-98. [67682]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical excellence awards were introduced in 2003 as a replacement for distinction awards. The total national health service spend in England for national clinical excellence and distinction awards for the last financial years for which figures are available is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2003-04	150
2004-05	172
2005-06	179
2006-07	178
2007-08	190
2008-09	180
2009-10	202
2010-11	203.5

Notes:
1. These costs include monies for employer contributions to national insurance and pensions.
2. The information above does not include information on local clinical excellence awards (employer based awards) which are paid by trusts. This information is not held centrally.
3. The information above does not include national clinical excellence awards that are paid from central funds to consultants holding a national health service contract and employed in the Department or arms length bodies.
4. The reduction in expenditure in 2008-09 reflected a scrutiny exercise which identified a number of consultants who had retired without notifying the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (any excess payments in 2007-08 were to trusts only and those monies were available for patient care. No consultants received payment to which they were not entitled).

The requested information regarding pensions liability is not available. This information is not held centrally.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has contributed towards the funding of any NHS awards recognising employee achievement in any year since 1997; what the names and dates of any such awards are; and what the cost to the public purse for any such awards has been *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of (i) advertising, (ii) associated awards ceremonies and (iii) prize money in each such year; [67683]

(2) whether his Department has provided advice to *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* the NHS Institute for Innovation on the benefits of (i) operating and (ii) funding NHS awards; and if he will publish any such advice. [67684]

Mr Simon Burns: There are a number of national and local awards aimed at various groups of staff, some of which are for recognising employee achievements. Of these awards, the Department has identified the following as awards to which we contribute funding and are able to provide information on without incurring disproportionate costs (for example for some awards data may not be held centrally):

Clinical Excellence Awards were introduced in 2003 as a replacement for Distinction Awards. The total national health service spend in England for national clinical excellence and distinction awards for the last financial years for which figures are available is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2003-04	150
2004-05	172
2005-06	179
2006-07	178
2007-08	190
2008-09	180
2009-10	202
2010-11	203.5

Notes:

1. These costs include monies for employer contributions to national insurance and pensions.
2. The financial cost of national awards comes from the NHS bundle and is ring-fenced for this purpose. Funding for Employer Based Awards is built into the baseline funding that the trust receives to cover staffing etc. It is not separately identifiable, and is not reflected in the information above.
3. The information above does not include national clinical excellence awards that are paid from central funds to consultants holding a national health service contract and employed in the Department or arm's length bodies.
4. The reduction in expenditure in 2008-09 reflected a scrutiny exercise which identified a number of consultants who had retired without notifying the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (any excess payments in 2007-08 were to Trusts only and those monies were available for patient care. No consultants received payment to which they were not entitled).

The total cost to the public purse for the NHS Leadership Awards was:

2009 (the start up year): £381,605.59

2010: £173,068.91

£80,000 was raised in sponsorship in both 2009 and 2010 and covered the full cost of food and beverage, room hire and audio visuals for the award ceremonies. There were no advertising and PR costs. All communications were delivered by the project lead in-house.

National Leadership Council bursaries were awarded to each winner and runner up of the awards, totalling:

2009: £290,000

2010: £380,000

The Health and Social Care Awards have been run since 2001, aimed at celebrating innovation in the provision of healthcare, with the NHS Institute funding the award from 2009.

We are currently making inquiries into the funding prior to 2009 and will write to inform you of the results. A copy will also be placed in the Library.

The Department has no record of providing formal advice to the NHS Institute or to NHS trusts on the benefits of operating or funding of awards outside the advice given on Clinical Excellence Awards.

The Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) issues guides to the Clinical Excellence Awards scheme annually. This is updated before the start of each awards round. There is a specific guide relating to Employer Based Awards (local awards) which are administered and decided at local level, along with a set of guides relating to the national scheme. This information is openly available to NHS trusts via the ACCEA website. The secretariat also offers advice and assistance on an ad hoc basis via e-mail and telephone.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for the NHS Leadership Awards *(a)* in total and *(b)* for (i) departmental administration costs, (ii) food and beverage at the awards ceremony, (iii) room hire for the awards ceremony, (iv) any audio and visual costs for the award ceremony and (v) departmental advertising and PR costs in each year since their inception; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse for all NHS trusts of participating in the awards in each such year. [67685]

Mr Simon Burns: The total cost to the public purse for the NHS Leadership Awards was:

2009 (the start up year): £381,605.59

2010: £173,068.91

The above costs include the departmental administration costs, including the salary costs for the project lead. These were:

2009: £57,967.00

2010: £60,575.52

£80,000 was raised in sponsorship in both 2009 and 2010 and covered the full cost of food and beverage, room hire and audio visuals for the award ceremonies. There were no advertising and PR costs. All communications were delivered by the project lead in-house.

No information is held centrally on the cost to the public purse for national health service trusts of participating in the awards.

NHS: Negligence

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths attributed to *(a)* medical negligence and *(b)* malpractice were recorded in each year from 1997 to 2010. [66956]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the number of claims notified to the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) against its scheme members that involved fatalities from 1997 to 2010.

		Number
NHSLA notification year	*Clinical claims*	*Non-clinical claims*
1997-98	223	n/a
1998-99	659	n/a
1999-2000	458	4
2000-01	514	9
2001-02	655	2
2002-03	697	9
2003-04	628	8
2004-05	645	4
2005-06	654	10
2006-07	640	10
2007-08	712	8
2008-09	758	7
2009-10	903	12
2010-11	1,141	8

Notes:

1. The year that the claim is notified is not necessarily the year that the fatality occurred.
2. The data include all clinical negligence claims not just those pertaining to doctors (medical). They do not include claims against self-employed practitioners in primary care, such as general practitioners, dentists and pharmacists, who are not members of the NHSLA's schemes.
3. The NHSLA does not record malpractice as a specific cause of injury. It has therefore supplied data relating to all non-clinical claims that involved fatalities. These claims may include public and employer liability claims, as well as other types of claims by third parties.

Source:

NHSLA, July 2011.

NHS: Training

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his review of the NHS bursary. [66448]

Mr Simon Burns: The outcome of the review of the national health service bursary scheme was published on 18 July 2011. The outcome of the review is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Workforce/WorkingintheNHS/DH_128397

Southern Cross Healthcare

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on cross-departmental oversight of developments at Southern Cross care homes; [66952]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to monitor the transfer of Southern Cross care homes to new management; [66953]

(3) if he will take steps to guarantee continuity of care for Southern Cross care home residents in their present homes; [66954]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local managers of Southern Cross care homes are supported during the transfer of homes to new management. [66955]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations regarding this issue. Ministers are being kept fully briefed by their officials.

The Department is in regular contact with all parties, including Southern Cross and its landlords and is monitoring the transfer of the company's homes to alternative providers of care closely. It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC), as the regulator, to approve and register alternative providers of care in Southern Cross homes. The CQC is committed to processing applications efficiently to help ensure continuity of care for residents of Southern Cross homes, but has made it clear that it will not change the regulatory bar or reduce the rigour of the registration process.

The Government's overriding concern is the welfare and safety of the 31,000 residents in Southern Cross care homes. We have made it clear that, whatever the outcome of the restructuring process, no one will find themselves homeless or without care.

It is for Southern Cross and its landlords to support local managers during the transfer of the company's care homes to new management. The statement issued by Southern Cross on 11 July makes it clear that the company, its landlords and lenders appreciate their responsibilities to residents and staff of the company's homes. All parties have given a clear commitment that the continuity of care will be paramount during the transfer process. Southern Cross has undertaken in a letter to care home staff that they will transfer to new operators with their existing terms and conditions.

Local authorities are already working to ensure that they can assist in the transfer of arrangements in respect of homes in their areas. The Department has been working with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association to support that process.

I have today issued a written ministerial statement updating the House.

Third Sector

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67534]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested could be provided only in full at disproportionate cost.

However, we can confirm that the Secretary of State and other Ministers at the Department have visited a wide range of charities and voluntary organisations since May 2010.

Trauma: Health Services

Greg Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients have been treated in each of the major trauma centres in London in each month since they were established; and what injury severity scores were recorded for each patient; [66775]

(2) how many patients have died in each of the major trauma centres in London in each month since they were established; and what injury severity scores were recorded for each patient. [66776]

Mr Simon Burns: These data are not held centrally by the Department. The number of trauma cases a hospital receives and a risk adjusted rate of survival are available on the Trauma Audit and Research Network website at:

www.tarn.ac.uk

Treatment Centres

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in independent treatment centres in each of the last five years. [65863]

Mr Simon Burns: Data on independent sector treatment centres (ISTC) patient numbers are not collected centrally. Data on numbers of procedures are however held. The following table shows the total number of procedures undertaken by ISTCs. These figures include mobile ophthalmology, elective ISTC procedures and each renal dialysis treatment.

Procedures

	Total
2006	57,146
2007	93,091
2008	170,634
2009	241,505
2010	235,397
2006-10	797,773

Tuberculosis

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were recorded by his Department in each of the last five years. [65865]

Anne Milton: The latest available information is shown in the following table.

Number of tuberculosis cases reported in England, 2005-09

	Number of cases
2005	7,691
2006	7,720
2007	7,626
2008	7,942
2009	8,286

Note:
Data for 2010 are due to be available in November 2011.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Trust Fund

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of capital reserves held by the Air Travel Trust Fund; and if he will take account of this assessment as part of his consultation on the future of the ATOL scheme; [65640]

(2) what recent advice he has received on the future level of ATOL Protection Contributions; [65641]

(3) whether he plans to reassess the timetable for the Air Travel Trust Fund to return to surplus; and if he will take account of any such reassessment as part of his consultation on the future of the ATOL scheme. [65642]

Mrs Villiers: On 23 June 2011, the Government announced their consultation on reforms to the ATOL scheme, with the objective of providing greater clarity for consumers and also to put the scheme's finances back on a self-sustaining basis.

The Air Travel Trust Fund (ATTF) meets the costs of refunds and repatriation assistance provided to the consumers of insolvent ATOL licensed businesses. It is financed through a mix of income from ATOL Protection Contributions (APC—currently £2.50 per booking), bank facilities and an insurance policy. Underpinning this, the Government have provided a guarantee for part of the bank facilities, currently up to £42 million. These arrangements provide access to £70 million which should be sufficient to meet all demands placed on the fund. The insurance policy has an annual limit of £300 million, with an excess of £50 million, available in the event of the failure of one or more major ATOL licensed businesses.

There are no plans to increase the APC, which would require prior consultation by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and approval by the Secretary of State for Transport.

The latest published accounts of the ATTF show that it was in deficit by £42.3 million as of 31 March 2011. The CAA believes that the ATTF should return to surplus within three years of the proposed reforms being introduced. The actual timing depends on factors such as the cost of future insolvencies of ATOL licensed businesses and the actual income from APC payments, both of which are difficult to predict with certainty. The proposed reforms should allow the Government guarantee to be withdrawn and the fund to return to a fully financially self-sustaining basis without the need for taxpayer support.

Aviation: Security

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of airport security. [67868]

Mrs Villiers: Officials from the Department continuously assess airport security through inspections of airports and airlines and meetings with representatives from the industry. We have recently published a consultation on reforming the regulation of aviation security which can be viewed in the following link:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-21/dft-2011-21-consultation.pdf

Biofuels

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to raise awareness of *(a)* the value of waste cooking oil from catering establishments for biofuels and *(b)* the effects of theft of such cooking oil from such establishments. [64062]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 5 July 2011]*: We recognise that biofuel made from used cooking oil is an important sustainable transport fuel as it both reduces waste and, by replacing fossil fuels, reduces greenhouse gas emissions from transport. We are currently considering how best to promote the value of used cooking oil from catering establishments to produce biodiesel.

We are also currently considering responses to a consultation proposing to amend the renewable transport fuels obligation to meet the requirements of the European renewable energy directive. These proposals include providing additional support for used cooking oil biofuel by awarding two renewable transport fuel certificates to each litre of such fuel supplied: Crop-based biofuels will continue to get one certificate per litre, as long as they meet the mandatory sustainability standard.

We recognise that the growing market for used cooking oil to be used for biofuel means that what was once just a waste product now has a value. However, policy on theft is a matter for the Home Office.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the projected level of access to local bus services in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66364]

Norman Baker: We have estimated that the planned reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant from April 2012 will result in a 2% reduction in bus service mileage in rural areas. The level of tendered services provided is a matter for the relevant local authority.

Statistics on the availability of bus services in rural areas can be found on the Department website at the following address:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/nts/accessibility-service/nts0801.xls

Statistics on the accessibility of key services by public transport in rural areas can be found on the Department website at the following address:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/worksheets/acs0102.xls

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Freight

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has discussed in the Council of Ministers the level of charges for freight trains using the channel tunnel; and what meetings he has had with the French Government to discuss this matter. [67422]

Mrs Villiers: The level of charging is a commercial matter for Eurotunnel and the freight operators. No ministerial discussions have taken place with the French Government on this issue.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Stratford

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the feasibility of introducing international passenger services to Stratford on the High Speed One line. [67754]

Mrs Villiers: None. This is a commercial matter for rail service providers.

Channel Tunnel: Contracts

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to Eurotunnel for *(a)* usage contracts and *(b)* back-to-back contracts in each year since the opening of the channel tunnel. [67461]

Mrs Villiers: All payments made from the British Railways Board (BRB) to Eurotunnel relate to the Channel Tunnel Rail Usage Contract. Eurotunnel is not a party to the associated UK-side back-to-back contract so receives no payments through it.

The British Railways Board (BRB) is the UK "rail" party to the Channel Tunnel Rail Usage Contract (RUC contractual payments are made on BRB's behalf by the Department for Transport (DFT)). It then receives a refund from the UK-side RUC passenger operator (Eurostar) under the terms of the back-to-back contract. Different arrangements apply to rail freight. Here DFT pays what is—in effect—the fixed element of the RUC charges with no refund being payable from the freight operators. This arrangement is the subject of an agreement struck in 2006 which both kept freight trains running through the channel tunnel and opened up rail freight access on the route.

Payments under these agreements since 2008-09 are set out in the following table. Figures for prior years are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£ million

Financial year	*DFT payments to Eurotunnel under Rail Usage Contract (RUC)*	*Eurostar payments to DFT under back-to-back agreement*	*Net payment to Eurotunnel*
2008-09	100.8	94	6.8
2009-10	107.4	99.5	7.9
2010-11	180.4	159.8	20.6

Cycling

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to promote the cycle to work scheme in *(a)* Derby North constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* the UK. [66792]

Norman Baker: The Department has traditionally promoted both the cycle to work scheme and the cycle to work guarantee to employers, employees and other Government Departments across the country through a number of departmental led promotions and projects. The Department also funds the National Business Travel Network (NBTN). NBTN launched a DFT part funded 'ways2work' tool kit in November 2010 to help people and businesses work more efficiently. The tool kit includes a section on encouraging cycling to work.

Most recently the cycle to work Scheme has been promoted through guidance to the members of the Physical Activity Network which is part of the Department for Health led Public Health Responsibility Deal. I have also provided a foreword in support of the Cycle to Work Alliance's Behavioural Impact Analysis.

Finally, the results of bids for Tranche 1 of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund were released on 5 July 2011, many of which included elements relating to cycling to work.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of installing automatic number plate recognition technology at the Dartford Crossing. [67010]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Cost estimates for the free-flow charging scheme at Dartford Crossing are in the process of being developed. The cost of automatic number plate recognition technology is a small part of the overall infrastructure and technology requirements needed to support a free-flow charging operation.

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans and *(c)* multi-axle heavy goods vehicles that paid a toll at the Dartford Crossing in each financial year since 2001-02. [66938]

Mike Penning: The number of cars, vans and multi-axle heavy goods vehicles that have used the crossing since 2001-02 is as follows:

Dartford crossing: Breakdown of vehicles by type

	Cars	*Vans*	*HGVS*	*Total*
2001-02	38,372,279	7,337,210	5,483,519	51,193,008
2002-03	38,598,968	7,651,471	5,753,094	52,003,533
2003-04	39,684,414	7,909,991	5,928,606	53,523,011
2004-05	39,739,070	8,132,895	6,124,459	53,996,424
2005-06	39,580,801	8,328,855	6,206,956	54,116,612
2006-07	38,890,946	8,281,527	6,062,856	53,235,329
2007-08	38,263,879	8,297,892	6,285,962	52,847,733
2008-09	33,885,615	7,106,653	4,873,771	45,866,039
2009-10	33,644,109	6,702,135	4,721,919	45,068,163
2010-11	32,593,347	6,733,069	4,825,743	44,152,159

These figures include exempt and free passage vehicles. Prior to 13 September 2009 it was not possible to exclude vehicles exempt from the charge from the figures.

From 2008-09 the figures are reduced because vehicles are no longer charged to use the crossing between 10 pm and 6 am.

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration was given to suspending Dartford Crossing tolls on *(a)* 8 and *(b)* 9 July 2011 under the protocol in force from 1 July 2011. [67313]

Mike Penning: On 8 July the Blackwall Tunnel was closed due to an incident and the diversion route via the Dartford Crossing led to high levels of additional traffic both north and southbound at the Crossing. On 9 July no significant incidents were recorded in the proximity of the Dartford Crossing, although traffic levels were high.

On both days traffic levels were monitored by the Highways Agency but did not meet the specified criteria for severe congestion set out in the operational protocol being trialled. The crossing charge was therefore not suspended.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67912]

Mr Philip Hammond: In the last 12 months I have taken one economy class flight to Luxembourg on official business. I have made no other flights on official business in this period.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66588]

Norman Baker: The Department does not have such a policy.

However in response to two Procurement Policy Notes on "Promoting skills through procurement" and "Embedding skills, training and apprenticeships through public procurement", the Highways Agency (HA) Board offered a target to deliver up to 100 new apprenticeships through its new procurement activity by December 2012.

The target of 100 new apprenticeships by December 2012 will be delivered through a combination of shaping supply chain direction via its Strategic Alignment Tool (StART); strengthening contract requirements for Major Improvement and Maintenance Contracts to increase focus on skills planning and opportunity, and by encouraging HA Suppliers to sign up to a Skills Pledge to invest in the skills and training of their workforce.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66748]

Norman Baker: Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011 the Department for Transport delivered a non-weather corrected reduction of 11.2% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government commitments, it is now committed to deliver a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2014-15.

It is estimated that from the office estate for June 2010 the Department for Transport non-weather corrected emissions amounted to some 1,545 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The Department for Transport is still collating and validating its emission data for June 2011.

Freedom of Information Requests

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63579]

Norman Baker: The Department does not assemble statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66573]

Norman Baker: The figures provided here are for items recorded centrally as lost or stolen in the last 12 months, for the entire Department, including its agencies and shared service centre.

The central Department requires monthly reports from agency security teams of all items that are reported as either lost or stolen. All staff are required to report any loss involving departmental property to their local security teams.

However, the figures in the table do not include thefts or losses where records are not available centrally or where such incidents were not reported. While some of this information may exist in records held locally within the central Department and the agencies, I regret that it can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department takes seriously any loss or theft of its property and takes appropriate action on a case-by-case basis.

The property recorded as lost and stolen in the last 12 months is as follows, and where we have the estimated replacement costs, this is shown alongside.

Item	*(a) Lost*	*(b) Stolen*	*Total estimate cost of replacement (£)*
BlackBerrys	19	10	6,815
Laptops	6	14	20,800
USB flash drives	7	2	495

Item	*(a) Lost*	*(b) Stolen*	*Total estimate cost of replacement (£)*
Encryption tokens	46	2	1,440
BlackBerry chargers	2	0	24
PC	0	1	800
Mobile phones	12	2	[1]—
Other IT equipment	5	5	[1]—
Personal items (such as jewellery and cash)	13	3	[1]—
Non personal items	8	1	[1]—
Total	118	40	30,379

[1] Unavailable.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66590]

Norman Baker: From January 2010 to April 2011, 76 new apprenticeships have been let directly by Highways Agency (HA) contracts. Prior to January 2010 this information was not collected.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67230]

Norman Baker: My Department has published 56% of its contracts on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. The remaining 44% were below the threshold requiring publication.

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66344]

Norman Baker: The following table shows the amount the Department for Transport and each non-departmental body has spent on redundancies since May 2010.

	Redundancy costs (£)
Department for Transport	0
Non-departmental bodies	1,922,211

These figures are for compulsory redundancies only and do not include exits under voluntary schemes.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65306]

Mike Penning: There were 32 statutory instruments made in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 that imposed no costs on business (21 of these were made by the previous Administration).

There were 29 statutory instruments made in the six months after 1 September 2010 that imposed no costs on business.

The Government's policy is to consider alternatives to regulation. A list of regulatory measures introduced in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

Local and temporary regulations have not been considered for the purposes of this answer as doing so could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65323]

Mike Penning: Four statutory instruments were made by the Department in the period September 2010 to June 2011 (inclusive) which imposed costs on business, charities or the voluntary or public sector. Of the four, three had an overall net benefit. The other imposed an overall net cost.

Although it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to break down the costs as between business, charities and the voluntary or public sector for each of the instruments, I set out in the following table the four instruments giving general comments on whom, on the basis of the impact assessments prepared for the instruments, the costs were expected to fall.

Title	*Comment*	*No*	*Origin*	*Net cost (£ million)*	*Net benefit (£ million)*
Motor Fuel (Composition and Content) and Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	Cost mainly on suppliers	2010 No. 3035	EU	357	—
Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011	Costs on bus operators—benefits are to Government and travel concession authorities. There is a net cost to bus operators of £0.004 million	2011 No. 1121	Domestic	—	0.65
Airports Slot Allocation (Amendment) Regulations 2011	Costs to airports, savings to airlines and passengers	2011 No. 1610	Domestic	—	11.1

Title	*Comment*	*No*	*Origin*	*Net cost (£ million)*	*Net benefit (£ million)*
Cleaner Road Transport Vehicles Regulations 2011	Net costs to business are estimated to be small. Level of both costs and benefits very uncertain	2011 No. 1631	EU	—	421

In total, the four instruments have a net cost of £357 million and a net benefit of £432.75 million giving an overall net benefit of £75.75 million.

Nine statutory instruments were revoked in their entirety during this period as were articles 4 to 7 of the Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Revision (Constitution) Order 2001. The instrument making this latter change also repealed section 14 of the Pier and Harbour Orders (Cowes and Yarmouth (Isle of Wight)) Confirmation Act 1931.

Six of the measures revoked were originally made (or in the case of the 1931 Act, passed) before the system for publishing impact assessments was put in place. Providing further information in relation to the costs of these measures could only be done at disproportionate cost. The other five measures were made when the system of publishing impact assessments was in place but no impact assessment was prepared for them, so it may be assumed that these measures were thought to have no impact on business.

Local and temporary instruments have not been considered for the purposes of answering this question as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

The one-in, one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force until January 2011.

A list of regulatory measures introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

No regulations were excluded from the one-in one-out system because they addressed emergencies or systemic financial risks.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67201]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport is committed to following the Better Regulation Executive's Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation.

Guidance is produced by policy teams across the Department, working with stakeholders and regulators. This forms an integral part of the normal processes for developing policy and is not a separate task. It is not possible therefore to identify how many officials are involved in its production.

Departmental Responsibilities

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67213]

Norman Baker: In the 2010 Budget, it was announced that all Departments with responsibility for employment law would contribute to the review. Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is responsible for coordinating this cross-Government initiative.

We do not hold central records of officials' meetings with other Government Departments for the purposes of policy development and implementation.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67575]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested is not held in the format requested.

It is my general policy to accede to all requests for meetings requested by hon. Members, irrespective of party allegiance, unless there are exceptional reasons not to do so.

Departmental Training

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was. [67626]

Norman Baker: The Department has not incurred any costs for training for Ministers since May 2010. The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), received training from the National School of Government ahead of an appearance in front of the Transport Select Committee. This was provided as part of core learning by the National School of Government and so did not incur a direct cost.

Departmental Dismissal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal systems in each of the last three years. [64680]

Norman Baker: This response covers the central Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies (Highways Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Driving Standards Agency, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Vehicle Certification Agency and Government Car and Despatch Agency).

In the years 2009-11 the Department for Transport has dismissed five people for under-performance following the Department's staff appraisal procedures.

This response does not include people who failed their probationary period due to poor performance. These people would not have been managed through the Department's staff appraisal system.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency and *(b)* the North East of the award of the customer contact centre contract for the east coast main line rail franchise to Intelenet and Atos Origin; and whether he has discussed this decision with (i) Directly Operated Railways Ltd and (ii) ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. [62440]

Norman Baker: DOR and its subsidiary east coast main line operate the East Coast franchise as independent limited companies. When agreement for continued efficient supply of customer contact centre services could not be reached with their previous supplier, National Express Services Ltd, East Coast took the decision to let the contract under a competitive tender process in accordance with EU legislation.

The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), is not party to this process, but is supportive of initiatives to improve efficiency and quality while reducing the cost of the railway to the passenger and the taxpayer. The decision to award the contract to Intelenet sees the creation of jobs in Plymouth and the West Midlands.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of charging points for electric-powered vehicles in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK to be activated in the next four financial years. [64386]

Norman Baker: The Department received a bid from Transport Scotland for funding under the Plugged-In Places programme on 29 October 2010. This bid was successful with Transport Scotland awarded £1.2 million to install 375 chargepoints by March 2013. There have been a series of programme management conversations with the Transport Scotland project team on the progress of their project but we have received no further representations relating to chargepoints in Scotland.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1316-7W, on the national planning policy framework, what assessment he has made of the level of promotion by local authorities of the building of electric car charging points. [66390]

Norman Baker: As set out in the Government's plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy, "Making the Connection", published on 30 June 2011, local authorities have an important role in stimulating the provision of infrastructure in their areas. This could be through encouraging infrastructure via planning policies or the provision of public infrastructure.

Local authorities are playing an active role in each of the Plugged-In Places pilot projects, with many others outside the Plugged-In Places areas also installing infrastructure, such as Brighton and Hove city council and Oxford city council. A number of local authorities have also implemented planning policies to encourage the provision of recharging infrastructure in advance of the National Planning Policy Framework, such as in London and Salford.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to support the roll-out of rapid chargers for electric vehicles. [66424]

Norman Baker: The Government's Plugged-In Places pilot projects plan to install around 50 rapid chargers in areas across the UK.

In addition, the Government's plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy "Making the Connection", published on 30 June 2011, set out a range of measures that will support the roll-out of rapid chargers, including Ofgem planning to consult on an exemption for public recharging infrastructure from the Maximum Resale Price rules to help enable a commercial market in the sale of electricity for plug-in vehicles to develop. Should the roll-out of plug-in vehicle infrastructure be constrained by the ability to raise finance, there is the potential for the Green Investment Bank to provide targeted financial solutions for appropriate plug-in vehicle infrastructure projects.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to support the roll-out of charging points for electric vehicles at *(a)* airports, *(b)* train stations, *(c)* supermarkets, *(d)* retail centres and *(e)* car parks. [66425]

Norman Baker: The Government's Plugged-In Places pilot projects are planning to install infrastructure in a range of locations, including airports, railway stations, supermarkets, retail centres and car parks, to provide infrastructure for the early plug-in vehicle market in these areas and to provide information on what is required for a national roll-out of infrastructure.

In addition, as set out in 'Making the Connection: the plug-in vehicle infrastructure strategy', published on 30 June 2011, the Government are taking a range of steps to support the plug-in vehicle infrastructure market in public places.

This includes establishing a Permitted Development Right that will remove the requirement from owners of publicly accessible car parks to apply for planning permission to install charge points. We are also proposing the inclusion of policy on plug-in vehicle infrastructure in the National Planning Policy Framework, due for consultation soon, which will encourage local authorities to consider adopting policies to include plug-in vehicle recharging infrastructure in all new developments. Ofgem are consulting on an exemption for public recharging infrastructure from the Maximum Resale Price rules to help enable a commercial market in the sale of electricity for plug-in vehicles to develop.

Employment: Disability

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many disabled people are being supported in employment in his Department under its Access to Work programme. [65047]

Norman Baker: The Department provides reasonable adjustments to employees according to need. There are currently 1621 employees who have declared themselves to be disabled working in the DFT centrally and in its Agencies. The DFT and most other civil service Departments do not use the Access to Work programme to provide assistance to disabled employees.

Exhaust Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of car exhaust pollution due to *(a)* faulty and *(b)* broken catalytic converters. [66639]

Norman Baker: Excess emissions due to failed and low quality replacement catalytic converters were assessed in the impact assessment for The Motor Vehicles (Replacement of Catalytic Converters and Pollution Control Devices) Regulations 2009, SI 2009 No. 1899.

This is available in the impact assessment library on the BIS website:

http://www.ialibrary.bis.gov.uk/uploaded/Catalytic%20converters_20091899_en.pdf

The IA includes estimates of the percentage failure rate of catalysts and the resulting increase in emissions. It also estimates the reduction in emissions brought about by the regulations which require replacement catalysts to meet the same performance standards as those fitted to new vehicles.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full length equivalent train diagrams of the Siemens Desiro EMU order will be used by *(a)* TransPennine Express and *(b)* London Midland. [67749]

Mr Philip Hammond: The currently assumed full length equivalent train diagrams are as follows:

	Number
(a) TransPennine Express	8
(b) London Midland	8

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reason is for the time taken to approve the order of Siemens Desiro EMU trains for London Midland and TransPennine Express; and when he expects to announce the approval of the order. [67750]

Mr Philip Hammond: The procurement of new electric multiple unit trains for these franchises is being led by London Midland, supported by TransPennine Express. As these trains are intended to deliver additional capacity to help fulfil the high level output statement (HLOS), the procurement process was paused by London Midland during the comprehensive spending review while the Department confirmed that the HLOS programme was affordable.

The Department is currently negotiating with the two train operating companies on the commercial terms for introducing such trains into service. Assuming that commercial agreement can be reached between all the parties, there should be an announcement later this year.

Fuels: Economic Growth

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* motorists and *(b)* motoring organisations on the effect of motoring fuel costs on economic growth. [66779]

Mike Penning: Department for Transport Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions. A list of Ministers' meetings with outside interest groups is published quarterly on the Department for Transport website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Ports (Refusal of Entry)

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 to allow owners of ports to refuse entry to vessels on ethical grounds; and if he will make a statement. [67043]

Mike Penning: No. Regulation of trade on ethical or other such grounds is more appropriately overseen at national level, subject to democratic scrutiny and in accordance with the United Kingdom's treaty obligations and with international law.

Specifically, attempting to ban the commercial export of live animals for slaughter to other member states would be illegal under EU trade rules. This has been demonstrated in the outcome from two European Court of Justice cases.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had on the planned changes to *(a)* Euston, *(b)* Birmingham Interchange and *(c)* Birmingham Curzon Street station as a result of High Speed 2; and which companies have indicated an interest in bidding for each project. [64776]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: No such discussions on commercial matters have taken place. As the Department is currently consulting the public on the principle of High Speed 2 (HS2) and is yet to seek powers from Parliament, it would be inappropriate at this stage to conduct discussions of a commercial nature about the four stations proposed for a London to the west midlands high speed link. Similarly, no inquiries or expressions of interest have been received in relation to submitting bids for construction work at HS2 stations.

Operational discussions have taken place with Network Rail about various aspects of the proposed high speed rail network.

It should be noted that there are currently no stations at the sites of the proposed Birmingham Interchange and Birmingham Curzon Street stations.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the estimated cost of the High Speed 2 line he estimates will be funded by the private sector; and what steps his Department plans to take to facilitate private sector involvement in the project. [67460]

Mr Philip Hammond: No such estimate has been made. The Government's views on the funding of High Speed 2 are set out in chapter 3 of the consultation document, 'High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future', and this includes the consideration of opportunities for private sector involvement. However, as the document notes, at this early stage in the process, it is not appropriate to specify precise funding arrangements.

As set out in HS2 Ltd's original March 2010 report to Government, it would also be possible to generate a return to Government through granting a concession of the High Speed 2 line to a private sector concessionaire. Subject to the outcome of the current consultation, the Government would give this further consideration as part of the ongoing development of their high speed rail strategy.

A 30-year operating concession for the HS1 line was let earlier this year for £2.1 billion—more than a third of the total construction cost of the project.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* a cost-benefit analysis and *(b)* an impact assessment was undertaken on the proposed increase to the Humber Bridge toll. [64113]

Norman Baker: Following the Humber Bridge Board's toll application to the Department to increase toll charges on the Humber bridge, a public inquiry was convened to consider the board's proposals and representations against an increase, in accordance with the statutory process under the Humber Bridge Act 1971. The independent inspector's report from that inquiry recommended an increase in toll charges in line with the board's proposals. I agreed with the inspector's recommendations. No cost benefit analysis or impact assessment was undertaken by the Department into the Humber Bridge Board's proposals.

Large Goods Vehicles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received from the European Commission on the legality of introducing longer lorries. [65963]

Mike Penning: Officials received on 7 July a letter dated 30 June from the Commission. The letter confirmed that Directive 96/53/EC only permits longer semi-trailers if the criteria for one of the exemptions set out in Article 4.4 are fulfilled. The Government's view, previously communicated to the Commission, is that our proposals for longer semi-trailers fulfil the criteria for exemption in Article 4.4 (b), because their loading length (15.65 metres) can also be achieved by existing rigid/drawbar combinations. The Commission's letter did not address this point.

Southeastern Railway: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason Go Ahead Group plc received revenue support from his Department at the maximum level for the operation of the Southeastern rail franchise. [67419]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport makes no payments of revenue support directly to Go Ahead Group plc. Revenue support is paid to Southeastern as the company operating the franchise.

When revenue falls below 98% of forecast revenue, revenue support is paid to the value of 50% of the shortfall; below 94%, payments equivalent to 80% of shortfall are paid.

Southeastern's revenue has been below 94% of the level forecast during their bid since 1 April 2010. Based on these criteria, Southeastern's revenue has been at a level below that contractualised such that they have received revenue support payments from the Department at the 80% level since this date.

London Midland

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates he has had meetings with representatives of London Midland train operating company since his appointment; and what proposals he has received from London Midland on changes to its diesel multiple unit fleet. [67554]

Mrs Villiers: My most recent formal meeting with London Midland was on 14 February 2011. In addition, Ministers regularly meet with the Association of Train Operating Companies, who represent all UK rail operators.

London Midland has submitted HLOS proposals regarding its diesel multiple unit operation, which are currently being evaluated. Any announcement will be made in due course.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of uninsured drivers in each of the last three years. [66640]

Mike Penning: We estimate that from a comparison of the Motor Insurance Database operated by the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) and the DVLA's vehicle's database that around 1.4 million vehicles are uninsured. This figure has remained constant for the past three years but is a reduction from an estimated 2 million in 2005.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the safety of motorists of changes in the periodicity of MOT tests; [66992]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects on levels of private sector employment of changes to the periodicity of MOT tests; [66993]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effects on levels of fatalities on roads of changes to the periodicity of MOT tests; [66994]

(4) what estimate he has made of the effects on Exchequer revenues of changes to the periodicity of MOT tests. [66995]

Mike Penning: I intend to review the MOT test scheme. I want to make sure that a review takes account of all the latest information available to us. To that end, we have recently published the results of independent research the Department commissioned to examine how vehicle defects affect accident rates, and to consider the potential road safety impact of changing the frequency of the MOT. The 'Effect of Vehicle Defects in Road Accidents' report can be found at:

http://www.trl.co.uk/library/reports_publications/latest_publications/

This research will be a useful addition to other information we intend to gather through the review process, including the impacts on garages and private sector employment, and the effect on Exchequer revenues.

Motorway: Speed Limits

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for City of Chester of 23 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 455, on motorway speed limits, when he plans to publish his consultation on motorway speed limits; if, as part of the consultation, he will ask what the motorway speed limit should be as an open question; if he will consult on what the default speed limits should be on other types of road; and if he will make a statement. [66502]

Mike Penning: Preliminary work reviewing the motorway speed limit is in progress. The primary focus of the current work is reviewing the effects of increasing the 70 mph national speed limit on motorways to 80 mph. If the Government were to propose a change to the motorway speed limit there would be a consultation.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67414]

Mr Philip Hammond: I am not a member of the National Security Council (NSC) but attend as necessary to discuss Transport Security related issues.

The work of the National Security Council is not made public for security reasons.

Further information on NSC is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/national-security-council/

Network Rail

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the structure of Network Rail in order to ensure greater transparency in its operations. [66517]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Government are committed to making Network Rail more accountable to its customers. Following the publication of Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money Study, the Government are developing plans for the future of the railway. We intend to publish these in November.

Newton Station: Disabled Access

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the disabled access to Newton rail station. [66653]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* In 2009 the Department provided financial support to the Association of Train Operating Companies to carry out full access audits of every station in Great Britain, including Newton. This was for use with the "Stations Made Easy" application on the National Rail website which now has full details of all access features at stations, including a map and photographs, allowing disabled passengers to better plan their journey.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been shortlisted to provide additional rolling stock for the Northern Rail passenger rail franchise; and when he expects to announce the award of the contract. [65239]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is not aware of companies bidding to provide additional rolling stock for the Northern Rail passenger rail franchise.

Northern Rail are in discussion with one of the Rolling Stock Leasing Companies about leasing some existing rolling stock that is expected to become available in due course from another franchise. They are also negotiating with the Department about the commercial terms for operating such trains.

Should commercial agreement be reached between the parties then an announcement will be made later this year.

Piracy

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department offers to *(a)* UK-registered vessels and *(b)* British seafarers operating in areas where a security threat from piracy has been identified. [64052]

Mike Penning: Piracy is a particular problem off the coast of Somalia, in the Gulf of Aden, and in the wider Indian Ocean. My Department strongly encourages all UK flagged ships transiting this area to follow Best Management Practices. BMP is industry developed guidance on the steps that can be taken to reduce the chances of ships being pirated.

Ships are reminded of the importance of registering with Maritime Security Centre—Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) prior to entering the area; and reporting to UKMTO on entering the voluntary reporting area, and on a daily basis thereafter.

Shipping companies should also follow the advice included in Marine Guidance Note 420 (MGN420) which complements that in BMP:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga-notice.htm?textobjid=F7FC6BD38765050D

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also published advice to British seafarers about the threat of piracy in the Indian Ocean:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/river-safety/indian-ocean-piracy

Ports: Finance

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has provided for port infrastructure in each region in each of the last 10 years. [66986]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* No general funding has been provided by the Department for Transport to the ports industry in the past 10 years.

The following freight facilities grants (FFG) have been provided, by region and nation:

Yorkshire and the Humber:

DFDS Tor Line Ltd was awarded a FFG in November 2002 for £382,480, to support the cost of facilities at the DFDS Nordic terminal at the Port of Immingham.

Associated British Ports was awarded a FFG of £725,139 in February 2003 for improved rail facilities at the Port of Goole.

South East:

Associated British Ports was awarded £615,881 in October 2001 for a loading shovel and conveyor at the Port of Southampton.

South West:

Associated British Ports was awarded a FFG of £131,892 for a storage shed in March 2005 at Teignmouth.

Scotland:

Forth Ports was awarded £10,968,529 in January 2002 for a freight handling facility in Rosyth.

Invalid Vehicles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 1062W, on invalid vehicles, whether his discussions with representatives of transport operators, manufacturers and user groups are complete; and when he will publish guidance on scooters on public transport. [65589]

Norman Baker: The discussions with transport operators are currently ongoing and guidance will be published when discussions have reached a conclusion.

Department for Transport officials have been working with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) on the production of CPT's Code for the use of Mobility Scooters on low floor Buses. This code of practice is due to be published shortly.

Rail Value for Money Review

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to *(a)* Sir Roy McNulty and *(b)* senior members of staff for their work on the Independent Report of the Rail Value for Money Study. [58591]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* From the point at which the study was commissioned in December 2009 up until 27 May 2011, Sir Roy McNulty received £218,215 for his work on the Independent Rail Value for Money Study, including remuneration for expenses. The core team of seven who worked on the study received in total £968,638. These figures include the forecast expenditure for the final month of the study.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the recommendations of the McNulty review on *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak fares for passenger rail services between London and Brighton. [65718]

Mrs Villiers: The Department will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations.

In particular the Government will undertake a review of fares policy. We are currently still giving considering to the scope of the review, including the timetable and process for engagement.

Ministerial Meetings

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates he has had meetings with *(a)* British and *(b)* other train manufacturers since his appointment. [62607]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport and his ministerial team regularly meet with British and other train manufacturers. Details of formal meetings can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

This list does not include additional informal contacts with British and other train manufacturers, for example at conferences, stakeholder events etc.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid to Atkins consultancy in respect of the review of rail whole-system programme management as part of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study. [67763]

Mrs Villiers: The cost of the work in question was £50,000 excluding VAT.

Railways: Fares

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost to his Department of setting the cap on increases in rail fares at the level of the *(a)* retail prices index plus two per cent., *(b)* retail prices index plus one per cent., *(c)* retail prices index and *(d)* retail prices index minus one per cent. from 2012. [62136]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Government are about to engage with the industry in negotiations on the effect on subsidy/premia of the change in the cap on regulated fares from RPI+1 to RPI+3 for the three years from January 2012 to January 2014. It would prejudice these discussions to make further details public at this time, including assessments made of the impact of alternative options for fare levels.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to train operating companies and Network Rail on bidding for funding from the Station Commercial Project Facility. [61259]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has approved Network Rail to use £100 million of its Regulatory Asset Base funding facility for station improvement projects.

Network Rail is programme managing and administrating the Station Commercial Project Facility. Therefore, the Department has not issued any guidance to train operating companies or Network Rail on bidding for funding from the Station Commercial Project Facility.

However, Network Rail has issued detailed guidance to potential bidders, including operators, through a set of documents. These include guidance notes, an investment proposal application form, business case summary and a commercial, funding and delivery principles document.

These documents are available through the Network Rail Website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk/SCPF

Network Rail also issued press releases to both the rail industry and local authority press in mid-April to announce this fund formally.

Railways: Hornsey

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of the construction of a new rail depot at Hornsey. [65268]

Mrs Villiers: The introduction of the new Thameslink rolling stock requires two new depots. The proposed locations are at Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges near Crawley. Planning applications for these depots are currently being considered by London borough of Haringey and Crawley borough council.

Railways: Theft

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of theft of cables from the rail network in the last 12 months; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of such theft. [67425]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 713-14W.

Rail Value for Money Review

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether his Department plans to prioritise the development of smart cards for use on the national rail system. [67757]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport's business plan published in November 2011 sets out the commitment to continue to specify smart ticketing requirements, compliant with the national ITSO specification, as rail franchises are renewed over the life of this Parliament.

Railways: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* First Great Western Trains and *(b)* Virgin Trains on the use of Welsh language in respect of (i) rail services provided in Wales and (ii) cross-border rail services. [67779]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with First Great Western or Virgin Trains on the use of Welsh language in respect of rail services provided in Wales or cross-border rail services.

Road Signs and Markings

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on his Department's review of traffic signs policy. [56025]

Norman Baker: The traffic signs policy review was completed and reported to Ministers in May.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps local authorities are required to take to notify road users of the use of traffic regulation enforcement vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [65789]

Norman Baker: There are no statutory requirements imposed on local authorities regarding the notification to road users of the use of vehicles to which an approved enforcement device has been attached (enforcement vehicles). However, guidance has been issued to local authorities.

The guidance on parking enforcement can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/tmaportal/tmafeatures/tmapart6/betterprkstatutoryguid.pdf

The provisional guidance for bus lane enforcement can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/gen/coll_provisionalguidanceonbuslan/isionalguidanceonbuslane3570.pdf

Rolling Stock

Nigel Mills: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Transport on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 23WH, on the train building industry, how many miles of testing the Siemens bogie had undergone by *(a)* 22 October 2009 and *(b)* 16 June 2011; and how many such bogies have been manufactured to date. [67338]

Mrs Villiers: Testing of individual bogie components for the new Thameslink trains is under way and the complete bogie will commence factory testing at the end of 2011. Siemens are intending to commence testing of the complete bogies on their test track in 2012 and will have accumulated over 1,000,000 miles of running experience before the new trains enter passenger service in 2015.

The Siemens bogie for the new Thameslink trains uses experience and components from existing designs which have been further developed to deliver the wheel rail interface interaction, weight and energy consumption challenges in the Department's technical specification.

Rolling Stock: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department is providing to the train manufacturing sector. [63727]

Mrs Villiers: Further to the ongoing commercial negotiations on the Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi has indicated a preference to locate their European train manufacturing and assembly centre at Newton Aycliffe in County Durham. This facility is expected to create at least 500 direct permanent jobs as well as thousands more job opportunities in the UK manufacturing and service supply chains. With regard to the Thameslink rolling stock contract, Siemens' stated expectations for job creation in the train manufacturing sector are detailed in my response to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 205-06W.

The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), about how we can best support the train manufacturing sector's engagement with these projects, as well as how we can work with the industry to ensure it is well positioned to exploit other supply chain, construction and tendering opportunities, as they become available within the UK's rail industry.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the cost to the public purse of the administration of rolling stock procurement in each month since 2004. [67523]

Norman Baker: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department announced the list of pre-qualified bidders for each rolling stock procurement since 2004; on what date the list was reduced to two bidders; on what date a preferred bidder was announced; and on what date a final agreement was reached with the selected bidder. [67526]

Mrs Villiers: With regard to procurements of rolling stock led by the DFT:

the list of pre-qualified bidders for the Intercity Express programme was announced on 16 August 2007; there were only ever two pre-qualified bidders; the preferred bidder was announced on 12 February 2009; no final agreement has yet been reached with the selected bidder.

the list of pre-qualified bidders for the Thameslink programme was announced on 10 July 2008; the list was reduced to two bidders on 23 October 2009; a preferred bidder was announced on 16 June 2011; no final agreement has yet been reached with the selected bidder.

the list of pre-qualified bidders for the Crossrail rolling stock procurement was announced on 30 March 2011.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected variable track access charge is for Intercity Express programme trains; and what assessment he has made of the cost-benefit ratio of Intercity Express programme train sets compared to alternative train sets examined by his Department. [67752]

Mr Philip Hammond: For details on variable track access charges I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 20W.

We have reviewed Agility's Intercity Express programme proposal against the alternative of an all-electric fleet, with purpose built diesel locomotives being coupled, to trains to haul them beyond the electrified railway. The Department cannot make public its cost-benefit ratio valuations of the Intercity Express programme until the procurement has reached financial close, as to do so may worsen the Department's commercial position in the ongoing negotiations with Agility Trains, the preferred bidding consortium.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67143]

Norman Baker: Yes, my officials have had recent discussion with the Rural Communities Policy Unit at DEFRA on matters including the rural impacts of DFT's policies, community transport and the Wheels 2 Work scheme.

Shipping

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ships have been detained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency since May 2010; what the reason was for detaining each such ship; and what the cost to the public purse of such detentions in that period has been. [63961]

Mike Penning: 53 ships were detained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in the period from 1 May 2010 to 31 May 2011.

A list of these ships and the reason for their detention has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The MCA is entitled to charge shipowners for inspection following detention. The current rate of £94 per hour of surveyor time has been established with the object of recovering the full cost.

Shipping: Carbon Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions attributable to UK-registered shipping in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to shipping. [64100]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not estimate the carbon dioxide emissions attributable to UK-registered shipping, as there currently is no internationally agreed mechanism for assigning emissions to specific states.

The Government are playing an active role in the International Maritime Organization's work on technical, operational and market based measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from shipping on a global basis. The UK is also working with the European Commission and other member states to develop a proposal for effective regional action in the event that no international measure has been agreed by the end of 2011.

Shipping: Registration

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the Commission's proposals for a European ship register made in COM(2011) 144, Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area. [63963]

Mike Penning: The Government have had no discussions with the European Commission regarding the establishment for creating a European ship register—a concept that we do not support.

Shipping: Taxation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the EU shipping tonnage tax regime on levels of employment in the UK since its inception. [63971]

Mike Penning: None. However, around 18,600 seafarers (officers and ratings) are employed on ships in the UK tonnage tax. Approximately 27% of all of these seafarers, and 33% of the officers, are UK nationals.

Shipping is a global, competitive industry and UK seafarer employment levels are influenced by factors other than the tonnage tax. In 2010, about 27,800 UK nationals were seafarers working regularly at sea.

South West Trains: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason Stagecoach Group plc received revenue support from his Department for the operation of the South West Trains franchise. [67747]

Mrs Villiers: The SSWT franchise was signed on the 21 September 2006 and commenced on 4 February 2007.

The franchise contains a provision for the operator to receive revenue support in the event that actual revenue (as defined) falls below the level contractualised. Entitlement to this support commenced on 6 February 2011.

The process is identified in SSWT's national rail franchise terms which are available on the DFT website.

The DFT makes no payments of revenue support directly to Stagecoach plc. Revenue support is paid to the operating company, South West Trains as and when the contractual criteria are met.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what importance was attributed to bogie design in the evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project; and what processes were employed to verify statements made by the bidders. [65186]

Mrs Villiers: Bidders were required to provide a complete technical description of the Unit concept design, giving a comprehensive description of the vehicle and subsystem design.

The vehicle and subsystem designs, including the bogie design, were evaluated against the Train Technical Specification (TTS) criteria contained in Section 3 and Appendix K of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project Invitation to Tender (ITT) dated 27 November 2008, a copy of which is available on the DFT website.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who undertook the evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project; and what role was played by external consultants in that evaluation. [65192]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: The evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project was undertaken by Department for Transport staff supported by Network Rail and First Capital Connect, and a number of external consultants. The external consultants have included PricewaterhouseCoopers for financial advice, Booz & Co. for procurement advice, Interfleet Technology Ltd for technical advice, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer for legal advice and ARUP for planning advice.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what importance was attributed to train weight in the evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [65241]

Mrs Villiers: The importance attributed to the train weight is identified in Table K3 'Train Technical Specification scoring matrix', contained within Appendix K to the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project Invitation to Tender, dated 27 November 2008, a copy of which is available on the DFT website.

In addition, train weight influences the energy consumption and on-going track maintenance costs, which have been assessed as part of the evaluation process.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons Alstom Transport was eliminated from the competition for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [65242]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement process has not yet concluded, consequently the details of the bid are confidential to Alstom and the Department.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the weighting attached to the various criteria that the Department used to assess bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project as of 31 April 2008. [65426]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The weightings attached to the various criteria are contained in Section 3 'Evaluation Process' and the referenced appendices of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project Invitation to Tender dated 27 November 2008, a copy of which is available on the DFT website.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria were that his Department planned to use to assess bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project as at 31 April 2008. [65427]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The evaluation criteria and evaluation process are contained in Section 3 'Evaluation Process' and the referenced appendices of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project Invitation to Tender dated November 27 2008, a copy of which is available on the DFT website.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* scope was of the review of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project since his appointment; [65471]

(2) what aspects of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project he reviewed after his appointment in May 2010. [65472]

Mrs Villiers: The Government Major Project Review held in summer 2010 reviewed all aspects of the Thameslink programme, including the Thameslink Rolling Stock project.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs to be created by the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project; what types of jobs they will be; how many will be permanent; and when the posts will be created. [65475]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 205-6W, to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham).

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the effect on employment in all rail-related sectors of the domestic transport industry of the announcement of the preferred bidder for the Thameslink contract. [65776]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 205-6W, to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham).

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the long-term *(a)* economic and *(b)* employment impact on the rail industry in (i) Derby, (ii) the east midlands and (iii) the UK of the appointment of Siemens as the preferred bidder. [65797]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* the British transport manufacturing industry, *(b)* the economy of the Midlands and *(c)* the supply chain of businesses of the award of the Thameslink contract to a non-UK based bidder; and if he will make a statement. [65817]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W.

Thameslink: Conditions of Employment

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-6WS, on Thameslink Rolling Stock, whether the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 will apply to the transfer of train maintenance staff from First Capital Connect to Siemens. [65025]

Mrs Villiers: The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 may be relevant to the transfer of train maintenance staff from First Capital Connect to Siemens.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish any economic impact assessment undertaken by his Department on the decision on the award of the Thameslink contract. [65895]

Mrs Villiers: The criteria against which bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract were judged were those set out at the time the invitation to tender (ITT) was published in 2008 and included an evaluation of affordability, value for money and deliverability. The evaluation criteria are contained in the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project invitation to tender dated 27 November 2008, a copy of which is available on the DFT website:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/thameslinkrollingstock/itt/

The Department did not carry out a specific economic impact assessment beyond the work done evaluating the bids against the published criteria.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reason is for the time taken to award the resignalling contract for London bridge under the Thameslink contract. [67421]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail issued the tender for the resignalling contract for London bridge in late January 2011 with tenders returned in April 2011. Evaluation took place between April 2011 and July 2011, with tenderers advised of the outcome on 6 July 2011. This procurement process has been achieved in accordance with Network Rail's programme.

Sustainable Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on encouraging the uptake of sustainable modes of transport under draft version 4 of the national planning policy framework. [67427]

Norman Baker: My officials have worked closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government to include and promote sustainable transport measures in the national planning policy framework. These will be reflected in the consultation document to be published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Transport: Livestock

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on live export of farm animals to continental Europe; and if he will make a statement. [67044]

Mike Penning: None.

Transport: Olympic Games 2012

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what agreements his Department has reached with the Mayor of London on traffic reduction targets for the period of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. [66313]

Mrs Villiers: The Olympic Delivery Authority has statutory responsibility for traffic reduction at Games time. My officials are working with the Mayor and the ODA on traffic reduction measures.

Transport for London (TfL), through the Travel Advice to Business Programme, is currently working with businesses across London and other affected locations to encourage them to consider the impact the Games might have on commuters and business travel, as well as business operations such as freight and deliveries.

As part of this preparation, TfL is actively encouraging businesses to check on the website:

www.london2012.com/traveladviceforbusiness

to see if they are in areas affected by the Games and start making Games time travel plans, including considering implementation of measures such as working from home, changing the time of travel or considering changing the way they travel.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change in the number of commuter trains will be during the period of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London and the South East. [66314]

Mrs Villiers: The number of commuter trains operating during the period of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be broadly similar to the current number with some additions to address Olympics-related travel patterns. On the high speed line from Kent to St. Pancras some reduction in commuter trains will be necessitated to enable additional services to be provided to the Olympic stadium at this time.

Transport: Planning

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the implications for transport policy of draft version 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework. [67463]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have held regular discussions on a range of issues with my ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Passenger Journeys

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the total number of passenger miles travelled by all modes of transport where the journey was *(a)* up to 10 miles, *(b)* 10 to 50 miles, *(c)* 50 to 150 miles and *(d)* greater than 150 miles for (i) each county in England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland that were made in 2010; [66979]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of passenger journeys made in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* each county in England in 2010. [66980]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The National Travel Survey (NTS) covers residents of Great Britain. Data are not available by county as the sample is too small to provide reliable results at that level of geography. Regional level results are available through combining two survey years of data together. The latest results available are for 2008 and 2009 combined. They cover all domestic journeys by all modes of transport, public and private, including walking and cycling.

Table NTS9903 shows the average number of trips per person per year by region and country of residence and can be viewed at the following link:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/nts/how-mode/nts9903.xls

Table: Average distance travelled per person per year by trip length and region/country: Great Britain, 2008 and 2009 combined

Miles/Number

	Trip length (miles)					
Region of residence	*Up to 10 miles*	*10 to under 50 miles*	*50 to under 200 miles*	*200 miles and over*	*Total distance (miles)*	*Unweighted sample (trips)*
North East	2,343	2,335	1,142	521	6,341	34,001
North West	2,200	2,343	1,087	470	6,101	85,914
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,260	2,459	1,441	526	6,686	62,625

Table: Average distance travelled per person per year by trip length and region/country: Great Britain, 2008 and 2009 combined

Miles/Number

	Trip length (miles)					
Region of residence	*Up to 10 miles*	*10 to under 50 miles*	*50 to under 200 miles*	*200 miles and over*	*Total distance (miles)*	*Unweighted sample (trips)*
East Midlands	2,194	3,047	1,849	250	7,340	52,946
West Midlands	2,303	2,466	1,503	236	6,509	63,598
East of England	2,152	3,743	1,726	408	8,030	69,008
Greater London	1,973	1,690	969	422	5,054	74,166
South East	2,215	3,147	1,789	522	7,673	100,431
South West	2,300	2,828	2,023	576	7,727	64,536
England	2,197	2,665	1,497	439	6,798	607,225
Wales	2,210	2,959	1,618	251	7,038	34,756
Scotland	2,057	3,096	1,147	932	7,233	58,210
Great Britain	2,186	2,717	1,472	473	6,848	700,191

Note:
The specified trip length bandings are not available, and therefore the nearest available bandings have been used instead.

Data for Northern Ireland are collected separately in the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland. Results are available at:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-catagories/stats-catagories-travel_survey.htm

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to privatise the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency during the present Parliament. [67312]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has no plan to privatise the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency during the present Parliament.

World Maritime Day

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to mark World Maritime Day. [66129]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport will mark World Maritime Day on 29 September, the theme for which is 'Piracy—orchestrating the response', by sending an official communication to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), which the UK Government are proud to host in London.

The Department for Transport will fly the Red Ensign at its London headquarters. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in addition to the Red Ensign, will fly the IMO flag at its Southampton headquarters.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Ministerial Meetings

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011; [66055]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66056]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* As has been the practice of previous administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed. I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 13 July 2011.

Apprentices

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the apprenticeship starts in the 2010-11 academic year to date have been delivered through apprenticeship training agencies or other third parties. [62598]

Mr Hayes: From the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) we can estimate apprenticeship starts through the Government funded Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) and Group Training Association (GTA) pilots. These show 2,930 recorded Apprenticeship starts between 1 August 2010 and 30 April. There will additionally be a small number of starts which we do not have records for, at ATAs who were not part of the pilot scheme.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) also works with GTA England, which represents a number of existing GTAs. They delivered an estimated 5,600 Apprenticeship starts between 1 August 2010 and 30 April.

These data are provisional and are subject to change as more complete data become available from providers.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are enrolled on an apprenticeship programme. [67075]

Mr Hayes: There were 326,700 apprenticeship programme starts in England in the first nine months of the academic year 2010/11, from August 2010 to April 2011 based on provisional data.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Degrees

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage apprentices to undertake degree courses. [63623]

Mr Hayes: Progression from apprenticeships into higher level skills and qualifications is key to our plans. I have renamed apprenticeship levels so that there is a clearer pathway from intermediate to advanced and on to higher apprenticeships. This reinforces the fact that apprentices can, and already do, progress into post-graduate level and professional qualifications.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is currently reviewing the tariff system and the way that it operates. The Government will work closely with UCAS on the review to ensure that vocational qualifications and apprenticeships are properly considered, and we are working with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) to make sure that those who graduate from an apprenticeship understand their future and career options.

Departmental Apprentices

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 567W, on apprentices: Government Departments, how many apprenticeships there were in each Government Department in each of the last 11 years. [67299]

Mr Hayes: Government Skills collected data on apprenticeship starts in Government Departments from April 2008 onwards. As set out in my answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 567W, there were a total of 2,120 apprenticeship starts within Government Departments during the period April 2010 to March 2011. There were 1,395 starts for the period April 2008 to March 2009 and 2,992 for the period April 2009 to March 2010.

Apprentices: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent since May 2010. [63280]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for Dartford parliamentary constituency and Kent local authority between May 2010 and July 2010 of the 2009/10 academic year based on final year data and between August 2010 and April 2011 of the 2010/11 academic year based on provisional data, the latest date for which we have data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Dartford constituency and Kent local education authority, 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011

	2009/10: May 2010 to July 2010 (final)	*2010/11: August 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*	*Total: May 2010 to April 2011 (provisional)*
Dartford constituency	70	460	530
Kent local education authority	1,180	6,420	7,600

Notes:
1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Bombardier

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department plans to provide to businesses in the Bombardier supply chain. [65978]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State announced on 5 July the creation of an Economic Response Task Force to fully understand and mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, its supply chain and the local communities.

Further the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), have asked their officials to work together with the sector and key delivery partners, such as UK Trade and Investment, to support the train manufacturing sector and the wider rail supply chain in securing more sustainable UK jobs through clearly identified business opportunities such as the Intercity Express Programme, Crossrail and High Speed 2.

Additionally the Department's Solutions for Business offers a range of publically funded products and services designed to help businesses to overcome key challenges and UK Trade and Investment explore export opportunities.

Business: Advisory Services

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of offering free insured advice to small businesses. [67275]

Mr Davey: From September 2009 to November 2010, two projects piloted the promotion to small and medium-sized enterprises by Government of insured advice on employment and health and safety matters. This followed on from the 2009 Anderson review which recommended that the Government should provide access for SMEs to a tailored and insured advice service. The evaluation of the pilot, published by BIS on 16 July 2011, concluded that there was not a case for the Government to proactively promote insured advice, although Government information services should provide information about their availability.

Business: Loans

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been lent to businesses through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in each month since it was introduced. [67716]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) commenced in January 2009 and as at end of May 2011, 13,014 businesses had drawn down EFG loans totalling £1.3 billion.

A full breakdown by each month is shown in the following table.

EFG loans drawn, monthly analysis

	Number of loans drawn	*Value of loans drawn (£)*
2009		
January	4	544,028
February	128	8,678,178
March	458	39,721,418
April	671	61,441,137
May	647	65,358,635
June	712	74,925,527
July	754	78,594,965
August	5[illegible]1	60,782,103

EFG loans drawn, monthly analysis

	Number of loans drawn	*Value of loans drawn (£)*
September	596	63,965,868
October	615	66,065,462
November	547	58,824,838
December	465	47,659,599
2010		
January	471	45,875,942
February	516	52,977,748
March	617	60,587,318
April	520	53,809,845
May	453	41,931,650
June	477	48,818,740
July	444	45,507,100
August	386	39,523,689
September	496	49,632,939
October	349	32,800,680
November	323	32,622,836
December	271	25,414,063
2011		
January	305	28,172,435
February	307	28,901,815
March	351	34,187,283
April	269	23,589,805
May	291	30,286,533
Total	13,014	1,301,202,190

Debts

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to investigate the conduct of debt consolidation firms. [64793]

Mr Davey: The conduct and activities of debt consolidation firms who provide loans by way of a second charge on a consumer's home is monitored by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The OFT issued updated Guidance for this industry in 2009 and continues to keep this sector under review.

In addition, in 2010 the OFT also published new guidance on irresponsible lending which specifically sets out the information the OFT would expect a lender to provide a person who is considering taking out a loan to consolidate existing debts. The guidance states that when applicable the consumer should be informed that consolidating debts may involve paying higher interest rates and increase both the overall amount repayable and the repayment period.

The OFT would also consider it likely to be an example of irresponsible lending for any lender to grant a debt consolidation loan to a consumer where it is known, or reasonably suspected, that the credit is likely to be unsustainable. Failure to comply with the irresponsible lending guidance could call into question that company's fitness to hold a consumer credit licence. The OFT continues to keep this sector under review and if necessary will not hesitate to take enforcement action.

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish any assessment he has made of the effect of the high cost credit industry on the trends in the level of personal debt between May 2010 and May 2011. [67675]

Mr Davey: BIS published 'Credit, debt and financial difficulty in Britain, 2009/10' in June. The aim of the report is to explore credit use and the extent of consumer indebtedness in Britain over the twelve months from November 2009 to October 2010 and changes since the previous 2010 report, which covered the period from July 2008 to July 2009. The survey provides useful information about consumer indebtedness and borrowing behaviour among the general population, as it is based on a nationally representative sample.

The most recent survey, which is available via the BIS website, found that there had been a decrease in the proportion of households using unsecured credit and that the level of financial difficulty may be declining. The survey also showed that 2% of those sampled used high cost credit products.

The next survey, covering the period November 2010 to October 2011 will be published in June 2012.

Departmental Apprentices

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships are planned in each Government Department in each of the next three years. [67293]

Mr Hayes: We have not collected data from Government Departments on how many apprenticeships are planned in each of the next three years. Civil Service Learning is encouraging Departments to use apprenticeships to support delivery of their business objectives and will provide some central support to promote a more consistent approach where appropriate.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66745]

Mr Davey: The carbon dioxide emissions from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills were:

In June 2010: 503.97 tonnes;

In June 2011: 348.7 tonnes.

Note:

These figures are not weather corrected.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66564]

Mr Davey: During the last 12 months the Department's records show that four prints with an estimated total value of £5,500 were reported as lost or stolen. After investigation three prints with an estimated value of £4,000 were recovered.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67807]

Mr Davey: In the period May 2010 to June 2011 inclusive, the Department has spent a total of £27,766 on hospitality. Of this, £26,540 was paid in the 10-11 financial year and £1,226 in the 11-12 financial year.

For information, it should be noted that the figures above include the provision of hospitality to external visitors and it is not possible to provide a further breakdown to identify the amount spent solely on departmental staff without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Department provides clear guidance to staff that hospitality should not be provided for internal meetings and should only be offered to external visitors where necessary and appropriate. As a comparison, in the 2009-10 financial year the Department spent £49,975 on hospitality.

Departmental Photographs

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on ministerial photoshoots and videos since May 2010. [67815]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does all ministerial photo shoots and videos in-house. Since May 2010 no money has been spent with external suppliers on such services.

Video and photography work is carried out by two BIS staff members. The total amount of work adds up to approximately one full-time equivalent.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67198]

Mr Davey: Ministerial colleagues make every effort to meet MPs with an interest in BIS policy issues, so I do not believe this would be a productive use of officials' time.

Education: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* overall cost and *(b)* cost to his Department was of the Researchers in Residence scheme run by Research Councils UK in each of the last 10 years. [65097]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The overall costs of the Researchers in Residence scheme run by Research Councils UK (RCUK) are as follows:

	Overall cost (inc. VAT) (£)	*Cost to RCUK (inc. VAT) (£)*	*Notes*
2006/07	[1]399,000	370,000	Based on Wellcome Trust's overall contribution to Edinburgh University of £86,000 being broken down equally over the three year contract. Note that between 2006 and 2009, Wellcome Trust payments were made directly to Edinburgh University and therefore cannot be verified by RCUK. Wellcome Trust contributions to Sheffield Hallam university in 2006/07 are unknown to RCUK.
2007/08	[1]300,000	271,000	Based on Wellcome Trust's overall contributions paid to Edinburgh university of £86,000 being broken down equally over the three year contract.
2008/09	[1]354,000	325,000	Based on Wellcome Trust's overall contributions paid directly to Edinburgh university of £86,000 being broken down equally over the three year contract.
2009/10	452,000	429,000	(Additional funding from Wellcome Trust)
2010/11	545,000	516,000	(Additional funding from Wellcome Trust)
2011/12[2]	94,000	85,000	(Additional funding from Wellcome Trust)

[1] Estimated

[2] Until 30 June 2011

Employment: Regulation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on employment law. [67284]

Mr Davey: Discussions with the European Commission to make clear the UK position on employment law take place regularly at both ministerial and official level. Most recently, I and the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), met with Commissioner Andor to discuss the working time directive on 13 July 2011.

Environmental Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* scope and *(b)* terms of reference are of his Department's Skills for a Green Economy project. [63328]

Mr Hayes: We need a work force with the right skills to maximise the potential of the green economy. Skills for a Green Economy is a joint project run by this Department, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, following the publication in November 2010 of Skills for Sustainable Growth, the skills strategy for England. The scope is to look across the whole economy; and to focus on the further education and skills system in England. The terms of reference are to:

identify the skills to support the transition to a strong and sustainable green economy;

identify policies driving or inhibiting the transition and consequent green skills needs;

consider whether business demand and the response of the skills system will lead to these skills being delivered; and

make recommendations accordingly.

The project proposals will be included as part of the Roadmap to a Green Economy, which we expect to publish shortly.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many consortia made bids to the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011; how many such consortia contained a UK business; how many companies there were within each consortium; how many UK companies were within each consortium; what the monetary value of each bid was; and how each bid was ranked by the Eurostars programme evaluation; [67896]

(2) how many consortia containing UK businesses funded by the Technology Strategy Board made bids to the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011; how many UK businesses there were within consortia funded by the Board; how many consortia which scored highly enough to be funded by the programme were not funded by the Board; and how many businesses there were in each such consortium; [67897]

(3) how much his Department allocated to the Technology Strategy Board to fund bids to the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011; [67898]

(4) what proportion of the sums bid by consortia in the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011 related to consortia containing UK companies which subsequently scored highly enough to secure funding; [67899]

(5) how many consortia containing UK companies which prepared bids to the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011 scored highly enough to be funded by the programme but were not subsequently funded by the Technology Strategy Board. [67900]

Mr Willetts: Eureka Eurostars is a programme for research performing SMEs and involves funding from 32 countries as well as funding from the European Commission. In the UK, the Technology Strategy Board is responsible for its delivery.

The Department provides an overall budget provision to the Technology Strategy Board and within that overall provision the Technology Strategy Board decides how much to allocate to Eureka Eurostars. The Technology Strategy Board has a range of calls on its budget and all of the programmes it operates are heavily oversubscribed. The current Eureka Eurostars budget is £3 million per annum which attracts 25% funding from the European Commission making a total annual budget of £3.75 million. The funding is evenly spread over the two Eureka Eurostars calls held annually in March and September.

For the bidding round of Eureka Eurostars which closed on 24 March 2011, a total of 402 consortia bids were received involving 1,301 businesses and academia from 36 different countries. There was an overall rise of 17% in the number of applications compared to the previous bidding round.

Of the 402 consortia bids, 85 involved UK participants. The number of companies in each consortium ranged from one to 11 with some projects also involving academia. The maximum number of UK companies in any one consortium was two and, in total, the 85 bids involved 97 UK companies and 151 partners from other Eurostars member countries. Looking at the total project cost, the bids involving UK organisations ranged from €199,000 to €6.3 million.

The Technology Strategy Board is planning on supporting seven consortia bids which involve nine UK companies. In addition, there is one bid which contains a UK university which is funding its own participation. There were a further 23 consortia bids containing 24 UK companies above the quality threshold which, if UK and in some instances funding from other Eurostars countries had been available, could have also been funded. Of the 23 consortia bids which could not be funded, 22 of the bids contained one UK company and one bid contained two UK companies.

The total project costs for all 402 applications was €550 million. The total project costs for the 30 projects involving UK companies which were above the quality threshold, and therefore scored high enough to be considered suitable for funding, was €39.9 million. The UK grant funding requested by the UK companies in the 30 consortia bids was €7.45 million.

The ranking of individual bids is not made publically available as it could impact on the commercial standing of the companies involved.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what matched funding was forgone by each *(a)* UK company, *(b)* non-UK company within a consortium containing a UK company and *(c)* a consortium containing a UK company in relation to consortia containing UK companies that submitted bids for the Eureka Eurostars 24 March 2011 programme and scored highly enough to be funded by the programme but were not subsequently funded by the Technology Strategy Board. [67901]

Mr Willetts: A total of 23 consortia containing 24 UK companies prepared bids to the bidding round of the Eureka Eurostars programme which closed on 24 March 2011 and scored high enough to be considered suitable for funding by the programme but were not subsequently funded by the Technology Strategy Board and/or the national funding bodies in the other Eurostars participating countries. The 24 UK companies were collectively seeking €5.3 million of grant funding with each company seeking between €70,000 and €300,000. The total project cost for the 23 consortia bids, which included 40 non-UK participants, was €27.8 million with public funding approximately 48% of the total cost.

The information on individual UK companies is not made publically available and individual figures for non-UK companies and consortia cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

EU Internal Trade

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the size of the European single market in gross domestic product terms in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 1990, *(f)* 1985 and *(g)* 1981; and if he will make a statement. [67640]

Mr Davey: The common market of the European Economic Community became the Single Market following the adoption of the Single European Act in 1986 and its full implementation in 1993. It covers a gross domestic product in current US dollars of:

$16378 billion in 2009 (27 countries)
$13652 billion in 2005 (25 countries)
$8080 billion in 2000 (15 countries)
$8816 billion in 1995 (15 countries)
$2503 billion in 1985 (12 countries)
$6491 billion in 1990 (12 countries)
$2700 billion in 1981 (10 countries)

These figures are in the public domain and I would refer my hon. Friend to the databases held by Eurostat and the World Bank.

Exports: Syria

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has revoked any export licences to the Syrian government for defence and associated equipment since 1 April 2011. [66349]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* There were no export licences permitting the export to the Syrian Government of defence and associated equipment that were extant on 1 April 2011 and consequently there have been no revocations.

Fuels: Prices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on economic growth in the private sector of motoring fuel costs; [66739]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on employment of trends in fuel prices in each of the last five financial years. [66781]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published a full analysis on the prospects for economic growth, employment and inflation in their forecast at Budget, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk

High Street Review

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much in expenses Mary Portas is entitled to claim for her work on the independent review on the future of the high street. [67549]

Mr Davey: Mary Portas' entitlements are the same as for departmental staff. Any additional travel costs which are actually and necessarily incurred by Mary Portas in the course of her review will be reimbursed by the Department, provided they are consistent with departmental guidelines.

Higher Education

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely number of state school students in university education in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [66220]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* This information is not available.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he and Ministers in his Department have had with the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, the Government's Advocate for Access to Education, concerning access to higher education institutions since the appointment of the right hon. Member to that post. [64665]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and BIS Ministers have had six meetings between them with the Advocate for Access to Education, the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), during his time in the role.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students accepted at each higher education institution had grades of AAB or above at A-level in the latest period for which figures are available; [65917]

(2) what proportion of students accepted at each higher education institution had grades of AAB or above at A-level in the latest period for which figures are available. [65918]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) have published a consultation document about the way higher education teaching is funded and student numbers are allocated in England, in the policy context set by the Government's White Paper on the future of higher education: 'Students at the Heart of the System'. Annex D of this document contains HEFCE's initial assessment of entry level qualifications by institution. This gives an early indication of the possible operation of the AAB or above policy. The data on which this provisional assessment are based will be subject to consultation and clarification with higher education institutions. Final decisions on precisely how the approach will work will be taken on the basis of revised data, later in the year. The consultation can be found on the HEFCE website via the following link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2011/11_20

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications each higher education institution received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the number of places to study at each such institution this represents. [65919]

Mr Willetts: The latest information on the number of applications to each institution and the number of applicants who obtain a place is available from the UCAS website at the following link:

http://www.ucas.com/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/data_tables/heinstitution/2010

These figures cover applications from all students (from the UK, other EU and non-EU countries). It is therefore on a different basis to figures recently published by HEFCE ('Teaching funding and student number controls: Consultation on changes to be implemented in 2012-13'), which cover UK and EU domiciled students only, and also relate to a different academic year (2009/10).

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students accepted with A-levels at grades of AAB or better by each higher education institution had made that higher education institution their first choice in the latest period for which figures are available. [65920]

Mr Willetts: The latest information for autumn 2010 will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The figures are on a different basis to those recently published by HEFCE ("Teaching funding and student number controls: Consultation on changes to be implemented in 2012-13"), which relate to the 2009/10 academic year, and include entrants with equivalent non A-level qualifications.

In 2012/13, institutions will be free to recruit as many students with AAB+ or equivalents as they want and are able. HEFCE is currently consulting on how this might best be implemented and will take final decisions later this year.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage local enterprise partnerships to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to commercialise new and emerging technologies in areas with potential environmental benefit; and if he will make a statement. [66479]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are developed from the bottom-up and it is for LEPs themselves to decide what their priorities are. The Government's expectation is that LEPs will work closely with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in deciding these priorities. Where LEPs are interested in assisting SMEs to commercialise new and emerging technologies in areas with potential environmental benefit, then the Government will work with them to do so.

Metals: Research

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support rare earth and minerals research. [65977]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not directly provide universities or research institutes with funding for rare earth and minerals research. However, the Department provides funding to the Research Councils, HEFCE and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), which provide a range of support to researchers and scientists.

As part of the evidence I gave to the Science and Technology Committee on 2 March 2011 concerning strategically important metals I explained how the Government has a responsibility through our excellent science and research base, and that if there are specific areas where more research is required then industry could advise the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

NERC has an active mineral research programme. The British Geological Survey (BGS), a NERC Centre, has monitored global metal production and trade for almost 100 years. Through its 'Metals and Minerals for Environmental Technology' project, BGS carries out research in the UK and overseas, in conjunction with academia and industry, on the Earth processes and properties that produce mineral deposits, on novel resources for environmental technology (initially focusing on rare earths) and on new mineral exploration technology.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) current portfolio of investment in metallurgical, ceramic and photonic materials research, all make use of rare earth metals and minerals. The EPSRC also funds research and has a key strategic interest in the area of materials efficiency and materials scarcity.

The Technology Strategy Board's forthcoming Supply Chain Innovation Collaborative R&D competition will help companies develop products and technologies that can mitigate materials security risks. In addition, the Technology Strategy Board funded Knowledge Transfer Networks have recently established a 'Special Interest Group' that aims to help businesses understand potential constraints on the availability of material resources.

DEFRA published research in December 2010 looking at the resource risks to UK business, including rare earths, wider metals, minerals and other resources. The research has helped develop policy approaches in the recent review of waste policies in England and the Natural Environment White Paper.

Minimum Wage: Young People

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to change the level of the national minimum wage for young people in the period up to May 2015. [66991]

Mr Davey: Decisions on national minimum wage rates are made on an annual basis. The Government's decisions are based on recommendations from the Low Pay Commission (LPC).

As part of the LPC's remit for its 2012 report we have asked the LPC to pay particular attention to the labour market position of young people. The LPC will submit its next report by the end of February 2012 and we will consider its recommendations carefully once that report has been received.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the conclusions and recommendations of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group on future challenges and opportunities for the UK automobile industry of July 2011; and if he will make a statement. [67522]

Mr Prisk: The hon. Member has written to me on this subject and to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). I will respond to him shortly in writing.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payment is made to Post Office Ltd for the issue of *(a)* a driver's licence and *(b)* a residence permit. [66295]

Mr Davey: The information requested relates to contracts between Post Office Ltd and *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and *(b)* those local authorities on whose behalf Post Office Ltd issues residence permits. These are commercial contracts between Post Office Ltd and its customers, and as such the information requested is commercially confidential.

Property Rights: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on small and medium-sized enterprises of transaction costs associated with defending property rights in the UK; and what steps he is taking to reduce such transaction costs. [61113]

Mr Davey: The most recent assessment made by the Government was of the evidence submitted to Lord Justice Jackson in response to his 'Review of Civil Litigation Costs' which was published in January 2010. In addition, further research and evidence was commissioned by and submitted to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in order to inform the Government response to the consultation.

The Government's actions on this have included introducing simpler more streamlined procedures in the Patents County Court (PCC): from October 2010, the introduction of a fixed scale of recoverable costs capped at a maximum of £50,000, and from June 2011, a limit on damages of £500,000 which may be awarded by the court in relation to patents and designs disputes. A similar limit for a wide range of other intellectual property (IP) rights including copyright and trade marks is expected in due course.

These limits will ensure that lower value/less complex claims, typically those brought by small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs, automatically fall within the jurisdiction of the PCC, which in turn reduces the financial risk for claimants of going to court.

The Hargreaves review recommended that a small claims track should be introduced in the PCC, to improve access to justice for firms with lower-value IP infringement cases. The Government will consider this as part of their response to the review.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff at each regional development agency were entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such staff received a salary greater than £25,900 per year; and what the total cost to the public purse was of employing such staff on such duties. [65986]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The regional development agencies have no staff entitled to work full-time as trade union representatives. The details requested in respect of those working part-time are as follows:

RDA for 2010/11 except as indicated	*Number of staff entitled to work part-time on TU activities*	*Number of such staff receiving salary greater that £25,900*	*Total cost to public purse of staff working on such duties (£)*
AWM	5	5	15,499
EEDA	0	0	0
EMDA	3	1	5,370
NWDA[1]	1	1	1,313
ONE	3	3	24,932
SEEDA	2	2	[2]0
SWRDA[1]	9	7	20,440
YF	3	3	1,258
Total	26	22	68,812

[1] Figures given for period ending [illegible] June 2011.

[2] There is a local agreement that two staff may allocate time to TU activities, the time spent is not formally recorded and therefore an estimate of cost cannot be given.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of projects successful in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund which were wholly or largely concerned with innovative technologies. [67890]

Mr Prisk: The proportion of projects successful in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund which have a material component related to innovative technologies was 64%.

Science: Higher Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of state school pupils applying to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects at university. [66480]

Mr Willetts: The Department funds a number of programmes which encourage all young people to understand the excitement and importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in their lives, and to encourage school pupils to study these disciplines at university, and to make appropriate choices at each stage in their educational careers.

These programmes include STEMNET and its 27,000 strong cohort of STEM Ambassadors, the Big Bang Fair, the National Science and Engineering Competition and National Science and Engineering Week, and the "See Inside Manufacturing" initiative.

In addition, BIS's partners, including the National Academies and the Research Councils, deliver a range of educational outreach activities directly aimed at school-aged students.

St George's Property Service London Limited

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the insolvency of St George's Property Service London Limited. [66412]

Mr Davey: Neither the Secretary of State nor I are aware of recent representations received in respect of this company aside from the question raised by the hon. Member that I answered on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W.

Students: Admissions

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of likely student numbers in the next five years. [66778]

Mr Willetts: We expect overall entrant numbers to remain broadly constant over the spending review period.

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will require all UK higher education institutions with students in receipt of loans from the Student Loan Company to provide the contact details of such students to the National Student Survey; and if he will make a statement. [67136]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Under current quality assurance arrangements higher education institutions, in receipt of teaching grant funding, are required to participate in the National Student Survey (NSS). The contact details of final year students are provided by the institution to the organisation administering the NSS, so all eligible students are able to give their views about the quality of their teaching and learning experience. The NSS forms a vital part of the information set for prospective students.

The Higher Education White Paper published on 28 June proposes a single, transparent regulatory framework with which all providers in the higher education system will need to comply if they wish to benefit from public funding. We will consult this summer on detailed proposals for the framework, which will include quality and information requirements.

Students: Loans

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the compliance with sharia of the interest arrangements for the proposed Student Loans Scheme. [66097]

Mr Willetts: The Government have received representations from student representative bodies regarding this issue. I met with representatives of NUS and the Federation of Student Islamic Societies on 21 March 2011 to discuss the issue.

Summertime

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the introduction of double summer time. [66847]

Mr Davey: We are aware that there are a range of views on this subject. While the Government do not propose to change current summertime arrangements, we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

Superconductors: Research

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has conducted into the use of superconductors. [65004]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides funding to the Research Councils.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has provided long term support for research into the study of superconductors. Currently the EPSRC portfolio for superconductivity represents 45 grants into UK academic institutions for a total value of £19 million.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated to the Technology Strategy Board for each of the next three years. [66789]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 268-69W.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the economic effects on Derby and its surrounding area of the decision on the award of the Thameslink contract. [65970]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced on 5 July the creation of an Economic Response Task Force headed up by Margaret Gildea OBE, who runs Organisation Change Solutions, to fully understand and mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, its supply chain and the local communities.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs to be created in the UK as a result of the decision on the award of the Thameslink contract; and if he will estimate the number of jobs that would have been created had the contract been awarded to Bombardier. [65971]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Department for Transport advise that the staffing level required to fulfil the terms of the Thameslink rolling stock contract is a matter for the Train Manufacturer and Maintainer

(TMM) to decide. Siemens plc with Cross London Trains, after being named preferred bidder, stated that work on the Thameslink rolling stock contract could create up to 2,000 new jobs in the UK, including jobs in train component manufacturing, depot construction and train maintenance.

Youth Unemployment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on reducing youth unemployment; and if he will publish the minutes of any such meetings. [65484]

Mr Willetts: BIS Ministers and I meet counterparts from the Department for Work and Pensions and other Departments regularly to discuss youth unemployment and related issues, notably in the context of preparing the Government's Participation Strategy, which is due to be published in the autumn.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1063W, on carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation his Department is considering on its estate are to be manufactured in the UK. [67938]

Gregory Barker: The Department will consider a number of potential options for low-carbon energy generation on its estate over the course of this financial year but has not yet reached the stage of choosing specific manufacturers.

Coal

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the future of the coal industry *(a)* in Wales and *(b)* nationally. [67111]

Charles Hendry: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with the coal industry where a variety of issues are discussed including the future of the coal industry.

Coal: Reserves

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the coal reserves available in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [67121]

Charles Hendry: The following tables provide a breakdown of identified coal reserves at deep mine and surface mine sites in England, Wales and Scotland. The Coal Authority do not hold information on coal reserves in Northern Ireland.

A regional breakdown of surface mine coal reserves in England is not available.

Deep mining	*Million tonnes*			
Current sites and licences	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Total*
Operational sites	75	—	38	113
Planning granted	—	—	16	16
In planning process	—	—	—	—
Pre-planning	—	—	185	185
Total	75	—	239	314
Prospects previously identified by British Coal				
Well developed				
Carway Fawr (South Wales)	—	—	10	10
N.E. Leicestershire (East Midlands)	500	—	—	500
Witham (East Midlands)	120	—	—	120
Park (West Midlands)	100	—	—	100
South Warwickshire (West Midlands)	400	—	—	400
Total	1,120	—	10	1,130
Identified				
Amble (North East)	50	—	—	50
East Durham (North East)	200	—	—	200
St Bees (North West)	20	—	—	20
East Yorkshire (Yorkshire and Humberside)	300	—	—	300
Kesteven (East Midlands)	240	—	—	240
Vale of Till (East Midlands)	90	—	—	90
Total	900	—	—	900
Great Britain Total	2,095	—	249	2,344

Surface mining	*Million tonnes*			
Current sites and licences	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Total*
Operational sites	10	18	13	41
Planning granted	1	11	0	12
In planning process	5	8	12	25
Pre-planning	19	13	4	36
Total	35	50	29	114
Prospects previously identified by British Coal				
Well developed	69	3	49	121
Fully and partly proved	107	23	13	143
Potential	340	49	85	474
Total	516	75	147	738
Great Britain Total	551	125	176	852

Note:
Developed prospects are ones where British Coal carried out a lot of work including applying for planning permission (not including Witham). Mines were actually developed in the case of NE Leicestershire (Asfordby) and Carway Fawr. Identified prospects are those where there was a lesser amount of work carried out.
Source:
The Coal Authority, June 2011

Community Energy Savings Programme

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Community Energy Savings Programme projects have been proposed but are awaiting OFGEM approval in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Scotland. [67433]

Gregory Barker: As of 18 July 2011 there were 177 proposed Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) schemes awaiting approval by Ofgem, broken down as follows:

(a) Wales: 27 schemes
(b) England: 125 schemes
(c) Scotland: 25 schemes.

Ofgem are working with the energy companies delivering CESP to address the technical issues which have delayed the approval of a number schemes and approvals are consequently expected to accelerate over the remainder of the year.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what companies are awaiting approval for Community Energy Saving Programme schemes. [67686]

Gregory Barker: The Community Energy Saving Programme places a carbon reduction obligation on the main energy supply companies and generators. All but one of the obligated companies currently have schemes with Ofgem awaiting approval.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of Community Energy Saving Programme schemes that will have been delivered by April 2012. [67687]

Gregory Barker: Energy companies are required to deliver the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) by December 2012. There are no interim targets within the overall period and no estimate has been made for the position in April 2012. Based on delivery of CESP to date, Ofgem estimates that 350-400 schemes will be delivered by the end of the programme.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide saved through (a) solid wall insulation and (b) other Community Energy Saving Programme measures since the programme's inception. [67688]

Gregory Barker: The precise amount of carbon dioxide saved under the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) by particular measures will not be known until the completion of the reconciliation exercise after the programme ends in 2012. Companies have up until the end of 2012 to deliver schemes and bank the carbon savings needed to meet their obligations under CESP.

The latest Ofgem annual CESP report (to December 2010) estimates that the CESP schemes submitted for approval at that point amounted to 7.1 notional $MtCO_2$ (some 36.9% of the total notional CESP target of 19.25 $MtCO_2$), after allowing for adjustments. The report also notes that 81% of CESP scheme proposals include external solid wall insulation and 8% internal wall insulation.

Departmental Air Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on air travel in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [67008]

Gregory Barker: Expenditure by the Department of Energy and Climate Change on air travel was as follows: *(a)* £1,216,000 in 2009-10 and *(b)* £808,000 in 2010-11.

All travel by officials must be incurred in accordance with the Department's travel and subsistence policy. A new policy was introduced from 1 October 2010 which includes the requirements that:

Staff should only travel if it is absolutely necessary;

Standard or economy class must be used unless there is a clear business need for a higher class to be approved; and

All travel bookings must be made though the official suppliers.

The extent of air travel reflects the Department's agenda

"to drive ambitious action on climate change at home and abroad".

Most overseas travel relates to the Department's engagement with the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC), the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union.

Approximately 15% of the costs of air travel relate to domestic flights. DECC is based in two locations—London and Aberdeen. While video conferencing is used as much as possible, there is a need for some staff to travel between locations.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66582]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change's policy is to follow best practice guidance issued by the Government Procurement Service (previously known as the Office of Government Commerce) on the provision of apprenticeships and training by prime contractors and contractors in the supply chain. This guidance is set out in the document "Promoting Skills Through Public Procurement" which can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/
Promoting_skills_through_public_procurement.pdf

It requires procurement staff to seek opportunities to promote skills training and apprenticeships in contracts wherever appropriate. Suppliers in the supply chain are expected to meet the same standards as prime contractors when working for the Department.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66584]

Gregory Barker: 2008-09: DECC was created in October 2008 and did not establish an apprenticeship programme.

2009-10: DECC met its pre-agreed target of 10 apprenticeship training programmes, including three new contracts created and recruited through the National Apprenticeship Service.

2010-11: DECC met its pre-agreed target of five apprenticeships—all of which were new recruits (and contracts) through the National Apprenticeship Service.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66321]

Gregory Barker: DECC has recruited 289 people since May 2010, which has resulted in a net increase of 150 full time equivalent staff. The majority of people recruited into DECC are existing civil servants who have come from other Departments across Whitehall.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has recruited 11 people, the Civil Nuclear Police Authority has recruited 187 people, the Coal Authority has recruited six people and the Committee on Climate Change has recruited 6 people. DECC, the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, and the Committee on Climate Change have not made any people redundant since May 2010.

The Coal Authority made 25 people redundant to 30 June 2011.

74 staff left the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and received exit packages as set out in the 2010-11 Annual Report and Accounts.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on entertainment in the financial year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [67009]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is unable to separately identify entertainment costs for staff without incurring disproportionate costs. The Department's accounting system includes entertainment codes but the vast majority of expenditure recorded against these codes represents catering costs for meetings and events, some of which involve industry and external guests. Not all catering costs, however, are recorded as entertainment. To identify non-catering elements within entertainment, and those costs that relate to staff, would involve scrutinising a large number of individual transactions.

As recorded under this wider definition which includes catering and non-staff costs, entertainment expenditure was *(a)* £255,000 in 2009-10 and *(b)* £118,000 in 2010-11.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67669]

Gregory Barker: Expenditure by the Department of Energy and Climate Change on hospitality was *(a)* £35,000 in 2009-10 and *(b)* £14,000 in 2010-11. Hospitality represents expenditure on food and drink provided at meetings and events for the benefit of guests outside of the Department. All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the Department's policy on hospitality which requires that:

> Directors general take personal responsibility for ensuring that an effective system is in place within their business areas for dealing with hospitality expenditure;
>
> all expenditure must be fully and properly authorised and accounted for;
>
> there must be a clear and justifiable reason for expenditure on hospitality i.e. where there is direct Government interest in promoting the Department;
>
> the nature of the hospitality should not be excessive to the purpose for which it is given;
>
> the number of members of the Department present should be reasonable in relation to the nature of the occasion; and
>
> personal benefit to the participating staff must be incidental and, where relevant, abated by adjustment of any claims for subsistence.

Departmental Photographs

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on ministerial photoshoots and videos since May 2010. [67668]

Gregory Barker: Since May 2010, The Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent £39 on ministerial photos. £4,412.97 has been spent on providing videos for stakeholder events.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67241]

Gregory Barker: Since May 2010, the central procurement team in the Department of Energy and Climate Change has approved 184 business cases to tender contracts that would be suitable for small businesses to bid for. Procurement authority, however, is devolved to the Department's business groups who are directly responsible for their own budgets and procurement activity. Details of successful bidders are held locally and to collect this information from business groups would incur disproportionate costs.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67242]

Gregory Barker: To date, the Department of Energy and Climate Change has advertised 31 contracts on Contracts Finder since the website's inception. This represents 100% of competitively let contracts, excluding those let under existing framework agreements where only framework suppliers were invited to tender.

It is now mandatory for all procurement opportunities over £10,000 to be published on Contracts Finder.

Departmental Redundancy

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67670]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not incurred any expenditure on redundancy costs since May 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67168]

(2) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party; [67191]

(3) on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67577]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1370W.

Departmental Training

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose of the training was. [67724]

Gregory Barker: My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Marland) received a briefing on legislative processes in advance of his taking the Energy Bill through its House of Lord's stages. Since May 2010, training for Ministers has been centrally funded by the Core Learning Programme of the National School of Government.

Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of industry on low overnight off-peak tariffs to encourage the use of electric vehicles. [66435]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

Off-peak overnight charging is central to the Government's strategy for plug-in vehicle infrastructure "Making the Connection", published on 30 June 2011. In developing this strategy, officials from the cross-Whitehall Office for Low Emission Vehicles had extensive discussions with representatives of the energy industry, including retailers and distributors. These discussions included off-peak tariffs for plug-in vehicles.

In addition through Ofgem's Smart Grid Forum and the Low Carbon Network Fund trials, officials are working with industry to consider in depth the implications of plug-in vehicles for the electricity network as a whole.

Energy Supply

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure future security of energy supply. [67602]

Charles Hendry: The Government have a well-developed range of policies in place to ensure future energy security. For the longer term energy security of the UK the Government are acting in four key areas: (1) reducing our demand for energy; (2) maximising economic recovery of our indigenous reserves; (3) ensuring a strong, resilient market and infrastructure (including through Electricity Market Reform); (4) influencing other countries. While pursuing this longer-term strategy, the Government also have arrangements to ensure the day-to-day resilience of our energy and other infrastructure in the face of challenges such as natural disasters, civil disturbance and terrorism.

The Electricity Market Reform White Paper (CM 8099), published on 12 July, sets out a range of measures to drive investment at the scale and pace needed to support the future security of electricity supply. In particular, it includes a consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism. We shall take a decision on the most appropriate form of capacity mechanism around the turn of the year.

Energy: Complaints

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints his Department has received concerning each gas and electricity company in each of the last five years. [66392]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials receive a number of representations about gas and electricity companies. However, individual consumer complaints are dealt with by the energy company itself by following its formal complaint process. If the company fails to offer a satisfactory resolution domestic and micro business customers can then pursue the matter with the energy ombudsman. Larger business customers can address complaints by using the legal system.

Energy: Meters

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support Ofgem's Low Carbon Networks Fund provides to smart grid projects. [66437]

Charles Hendry: The Low Carbon Network Fund will allow up to £500 million over five years 2010-15, encouraging and enabling the distribution network operators to trial new technology, operating and commercial arrangements which can aid the transition to a low carbon energy sector. £64 million funding is available each year in the competitive element of the fund and a further £80 million is available over the five years to help fund smaller scale projects. A further £100 million is available over the five years as a discretionary award to reward projects which bring particular value in helping the networks adapt to climate change while providing security of supply and value for money to consumers.

Energy: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed reforms of electricity markets on average electricity costs for consumers in each income decile of population, in each of the next four financial years. [66360]

Charles Hendry: The Government published a White Paper on electricity market reform on 12 July. The EMR mechanisms will be implemented in 2014, so will not have an impact on consumers before that time. The impact assessment accompanying the White Paper assesses the impact of the package on household bills for householders in 10 disposable income deciles, for the period between 2016-20. See page 118 of the impact assessment for further details:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the impact of recent announcements of changes in gas and electricity prices on levels of fuel poverty in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* London. [67372]

Gregory Barker: Projections of fuel poverty are made at a national level only.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices, if mirrored across all suppliers, will lead to a small increase in the number of households in fuel poverty in 2011 and a larger impact in 2012, as the majority of the price changes will feed through to annual fuel bills in 2012. Latest projections of fuel poverty indicate that there will be around four million fuel poor households in England in 2010, and around 4.1 million in 2011. Projections for 2012 will be made and published in the Fuel Poverty Statistics Report next year.

Nevertheless, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and data from the 2011 and 2012 English Housing Survey (EHS). The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

Green Deal Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to protect consumers from any advice given by Green Deal assessors which is not impartial; and if he will make a statement. [67702]

Gregory Barker: As part of the conditions of their authorisation, Green Deal assessor services will need to be certified by a UKAS-accredited certification body. The requirements of certification are intended to ensure that the assessment and associated advice are impartial and appropriate for the property and occupier in question. Appropriate sanctions such as suspension or withdrawal of certification will be applied for non-compliance with the certification requirements.

Furthermore, Government intend to move an amendment at report stage to make an explicit reference to the impartiality of Green Deal assessors on the face of the Bill.

It is the Department's policy that, while it should be possible for assessors to be employed by a green deal provider, the assessment itself should be impartial, and that a requirement for assessors to act impartially when carrying out an assessment should be included in the code of practice.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had on the independence of Green Deal assessors; and if he will make a statement. [67725]

Gregory Barker: We have been clear the assessment must be impartial, whichever business model operates under Green Deal and we intend to move an amendment at report stage to make an explicit reference to the impartiality on the face of the Bill. DECC Ministers and officials have engaged industry experts and consumer groups on the issue and we will consult on the approach following Royal Assent of the Energy Bill.

Low Carbon Sector: Employment

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* jobs in the low carbon sector by region. [65655]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 12 July 2011]*: Information on the number of jobs in the low carbon sector by region can be found in the Innovas report on low carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) commissioned by BIS, which is available on the BIS website.

According to that report the LCEGS sector employed an estimated 910,000 in 2008/09. The emerging low carbon sector accounted for just under half of total employment (445,600), with renewable energy employing 29% (266,300) and environmental 22% (197,900).

BIS is due to publish updated data for 2009/10 within the next month. BIS has not made any assessment of the number of apprenticeships in this area.

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effects on the standard of living of low-income families of increases in gas prices. [66481]

Gregory Barker: Projections of fuel poverty are made at a national, all household level only, and are representative of prices from all suppliers.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices, if mirrored across all suppliers, will lead to a small increase in the number of households in fuel poverty in 2011 and a larger impact in 2012, as the majority of the price changes will feed through to annual fuel bills in 2012. Latest projections of fuel poverty indicate that there will be around 4 million fuel poor households in England in 2010, and around 4.1 million in 2011. Projections for 2012 will be made and published in the Fuel Poverty Statistics Report next year.

Nevertheless, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and data from the 2011 and 2012 English Housing Survey (EHS). The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce the cost to consumers of domestic gas supplies. [67317]

Charles Hendry: Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means strong competition in the marketplace. We are taking a range of actions to boost competition and help consumers control their costs, including:

1. Requiring better information on bills to facilitate switching between suppliers.

2. Introducing the warm home discount scheme to help tackle fuel poverty.

3. Extending the carbon emissions reduction target scheme, which obligates energy suppliers to help households install energy efficiency measures.

4. Introducing the Green Deal to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

5. Cutting red tape for smaller suppliers.

In addition, Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition and consumer engagement (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its retail market review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices, consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

We are also taking steps through the Energy Bill to confer on Ofgem a power to sharpen commercial incentives on gas shippers to prepare for low probability/high impact gas supply disruptions. This is intended to improve the resilience of our gas supply infrastructure, and should reduce the impact of such events on prices.

North Sea Oil: Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the industrial health and safety implications of recent reports on the number of *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas leaks from North Sea oil platforms in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010; if he will meet officials from the Health and Safety Executive to discuss such reports; and if he will make a statement. [66257]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for regulating health and safety in the offshore oil and gas sector. In 2009-10 there were 187 hydrocarbon releases (liquid and gas) from offshore installations reported to HSE. Of these, two were classified as major, 83 as significant and 102 as minor. Provisional data from 2010-11 indicate that there were 168 releases, of which six were classified as major, 67 as significant and 95 as minor.

Hydrocarbon releases are potential major hazard precursor events and a key indicator of how well the offshore industry is managing major hazard risks and asset integrity. HSE takes them very seriously and investigates all releases classified as significant and major to establish the root cause, assess compliance with legislation and ensure that the operator takes any necessary remedial action. Reducing the frequency of hydrocarbon releases is therefore a key priority for HSE, but this is not a new issue. The number of releases has reduced significantly since data were first collected in 1996/7. In that year there were 226 releases, of which 19 were major, 129 significant and 78 minor. However further reductions have proved harder to deliver in recent years. HSE has continued to challenge the Industry to do better and fully supports the industry target, agreed this year, to reduce hydrocarbon releases by 50% over the next three years. HSE expects all operators to draw up and implement plans to achieve that reduction.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas leaks there were from North Sea oil platforms in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [66258]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) to UIN 66257.

Nuclear Power Stations: Employment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to commissioning an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the nuclear industry in the UK up to 2050. [67941]

Charles Hendry: In 2009 the Government commissioned Cogent, the Sector Skills Council for Nuclear to build on their assessment of the current civil nuclear work force and look at the number of jobs that would be created by industry's plans to build 16 GW of new build nuclear by 2025. Their findings were published in the March 2010 report "Next Generation: Skills for New Build Nuclear". It is estimated that 30,000 new jobs could be created by industry's current plans. The role of nuclear up to 2050 has been considered as part of the Department's 2050 pathways work, however there are no immediate plans to look at job forecasts beyond 2025.

Offshore Industry: Employment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to commissioning an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the oil and gas industry in the UK up to 2050. [67943]

Charles Hendry: Future employment levels in the UK oil and gas industry will be dependent on how successfully the industry is able to capitalise on the UK's remaining reserves potential. The Government will continue to support the industry in maximising economic recovery of the UK's oil and gas resources. However I have no current plans to commission an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the industry in the UK up to 2050.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average time taken for the net income from the feed-in tariff in respect of a solar photovoltaic installation to exceed the average planning and installation cost at the *(a)* current and *(b)* proposed rate. [67403]

Gregory Barker: At the start of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme in April 2010, tariffs were set with the aim of providing solar PV installations with an approximate 5% internal rate of return. Based on modelling assumptions at the time, annual net income from FITs (taking into account income from the generation tariff, export tariff and electricity bill savings; and annual maintenance costs) was expected on average to pay back on (1) upfront capital costs in around thirteen years; and (2) planning and installation costs in three years.

The recent fast track review of the FITs scheme found evidence that solar PV capital costs had fallen by around 30% from levels originally assumed. Based on this latest information, the above payback period estimates would still be expected to hold under the fast track review tariff for 50 kW to 150 kW installations, but would be longer for installations between 150 kW and 5 MW and stand alone installations. However, leaving tariffs unchanged would significantly reduce the estimated payback periods for all installations above 50 kW and stand alone installations to (1) around nine years for upfront capital costs; and (2) two years for planning and installation costs.

Third Sector

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67671]

Gregory Barker: Information on meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations is published on a quarterly basis on the departmental website.

Wind Power: Nature Conservation

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what long-term environmental impact assessments have been undertaken by his Department in respect of areas proposed for onshore wind farm development. [66280]

Charles Hendry: Environmental impact assessments are a matter for project developers who are required to prepare and consult on environmental statements for their proposals under the relevant planning framework. The Secretary of State will consider these statements when determining schemes above 50 MW, including proposals for wind farms in Wales.

As part of the preparation of the energy National Policy Statements, an appraisal of sustainability incorporating strategic environmental assessment was done to assess the potential strategically significant effects of new infrastructure including wind farms in England and Wales. These appraisals are published at:

www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farm applications have been refused since June 2010. [67497]

Charles Hendry: The Department understands that since June 2010, 25 wind farm applications in England have been refused by local planning authorities. No applications for large scale wind farms (over 50 megawatts) have been refused.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Attorney-General what the annual value is of the Law Officers Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66631]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has contracts and framework agreements in place across all major sectors of expenditure in respect of goods and services. It is estimated that over 90% of the Department's expenditure on goods and services is committed via these agreements. The remaining expenditure is made through ad hoc contracts and purchases made via high street and online retailers.

The total expenditure in each sector during 2010-11 was:

	£
ICT	62,006,621
Facilities management	15,586,486
Post and courier	5,755,393
Interpreters, transcriptions and translations	5,366,615
Reprographics and printing	4,476,972
Professional services	3,693,460
Travel, hotels and conference hire	3,256,913
Stationery	3,009,632
Publications and subscriptions	2,746,963
Training	2,008,392
Utilities	1,748,629
Case presentational equipment	1,736,614
Agency staff	1,714,121
File storage	1,173,088
Non-capital equipment	532,329
Publicity and media	262,746
Confiscation expenses	233,887
Recruitment services	150,347

The value of the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) expenditure by major category is disclosed each year in HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor Resource Accounts. These figures also include expenditure by the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. The Department's best estimate is that 85-90% of its expenditure is under contract.

The departmental administration expenditure figures for 2010-11 are shown at page 60 in the 2010-11 Resource Accounts HC 967 a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The main items, excluding property leases, are:

Sector	*Expenditure (£000)*
Accommodation	2,027
Library information services	1.545
Rates	1,407
IT maintenance and consumables	1.068
Professional programme and technical services	794
Training	547
Communications	461
Travel and subsistence	388
Accommodation maintenance	388
Records management	294
Utilities and cleaning	268
Publications	258
Postal services	254
Recruitment	228
Stationery	223
Office machines and consumables	212
Subscription fees	110
Shared Service feasibility	142
IT network services	124
External HR services	119
Welfare supplies and consumables	114
Translation costs	114
Internal Audit	88

Additionally TSol makes payments of disbursements, including counsel fees, under contract. The Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (page 48 of 2010-11 Resource Accounts) shows 2010-11 disbursement costs as £32.2 million. Disbursement costs incurred on behalf of clients are recovered from clients.

The Serious Fraud Office has framework agreements and contracts in place for all major sectors of expenditure in respect of goods and services. Over 90% of expenditure is committed via these contracts. The remaining expenditure is made via ad hoc contracts and one-off 'spot' purchases via high street and online retailers at all times seeking to deliver the best value of money. The total expenditure by the Serious Fraud Office in each sector during 2010-11 is outlined in the following table:

Sector	*Expenditure (£)*
ICT	4,838,047
Facilities management	4,997,496
Post and courier	129,212
Interpreters, translations and transcriptions	292,851
Reprographics and printing	69,296
Professional services	252,632
Travel, hotels and conference hire	484,542
Stationery	100,238
Publications and subscriptions	92,123
Training	221,268
Utilities	227,932
Agency staff	3,706,797
File storage	165,922
Publicity and media	28,275
Recruitment	14,778

SCOTLAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67158]

Michael Moore: I have met many hon. Members from a range of political parties since May 2010 in my role as Secretary of State for Scotland. The information provided only relates to formal meetings with MPs and does not include the regular informal discussions I have with hon. Members from all political parties:

	Number
Conservative	6
Liberal Democrat	8
Labour	16
SNP	3

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67181]

Michael Moore: I regularly meet hon. Members from a range of political parties both formally and informally. The Scotland Office does not keep a record of declined meetings and has no plans to do so.

WALES

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66568]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

TREASURY

Commodity Markets

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits to the financial services sector of (i) exchange trading of commodity derivatives and (ii) position limits for non-commercial participants in commodity derivatives markets. [67603]

Mr Hoban: The Government have no plans to assess costs and benefits to the financial services sector of exchange trading of commodities. However the Government believe that trading in commodities markets plays an important role in providing liquidity (the volume of trades being made in a market) in these markets and that liquidity is essential to the effective functioning of these markets. Against the backdrop of climate change, and the possibility that international agricultural prices may become more volatile over time, the role of agricultural futures and options markets, and the liquidity they rely on, become more important.

The recent advice given by the Committee of European Securities Regulators (now European Securities and Markets Authority) to the European Commission in October 2010 provides a thorough assessment of the costs and benefits of position limits as part of the regulatory framework for commodity derivatives. This advice can be found here:

http://www.esma.europa.eu/index.php?page=document_details&from_title=Documents&id=7279

(Section IV, Question 12)

Consistent with this advice, the Government believe that the authority to set position limits would appropriately be a part of a position management regime, though not the leading element. Position limits by their nature are inflexible tools, and the Government are sceptical that such measures would be effective in reducing the presence of a particular participant type in the market, or would be an effective tool to address price volatility.

Corporation Tax: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of devolving powers relating to the setting of rates of corporation tax on the allocation of funding to the Scottish Parliament through the block grant. [59642]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* estimate and *(b)* set out the methodology for estimating the effect on the revenue of the Scottish Executive of introducing a corporation tax rate in Scotland matching the rate in the Republic of Ireland. [62939]

Mr Gauke: A copy of this analysis has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the underlying figures and calculations on corporation tax raised in Scotland referred to in the press release issued by the Secretary of State for Scotland on 23 June 2011. [65631]

Mr Gauke: I have written to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested. A copy has also been deposited in the Library of the House.

Economic Situation: Belgium

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the risk of a downgrading of the credit rating of bonds issued by the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in Belgium. [67018]

Mr Hoban: It is not for the Government to speculate on what the credit ratings agencies may or may not do. The UK authorities are keeping the situation in the euro area under close review, including its potential impact on UK institutions and financial stability. Contingency planning is in place for a wide variety of outcomes.

Economic Situation: Republic of Ireland

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects of the downgrading of Ireland's credit rating on *(a)* UK GDP, *(b)* the UK manufacturing industry and *(c)* agriculture in the UK. [67404]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR made a full assessment of UK economic prospects in their "Economic and Fiscal Outlook", published alongside Budget 2011, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsbility.independent.gov.uk

The autumn Economic and Fiscal Outlook will provide an updated assessment that reflects relevant developments, including in Ireland.

Financial Services: Taxation

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of tax receipts from financial services institutions in 2011-12; and how much tax revenue was received from such institutions in each year since 1997. [66729]

Mr Gauke: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published a forecast for corporation tax receipts from financial companies alongside their March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook. These figures are in table 2.5 of the fiscal supplementary tables, available on the internet at:

http://86.54.44.148/wordpress/docs/obr_fiscal_supplementary_tables1.xls

The OBR published their first fiscal sustainability report on 13 July. This report additionally includes a projection of PAYE receipts for the financial sector for 2011-12 and up to 2015-16. However, the PAYE projection is a stylised extrapolation rather than a formal forecast. This information is available in the spreadsheet containing the data for the main charts and tables from the report, available at the following link, at box 4.1 (chart B). The figures for PAYE receipts are on a national accounts basis. A formal PAYE forecast for the financial sector is not produced.

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/pubs/July-2011-FSR-main-report-charts-and-tables.xls

No such forecast or projection is available for any other taxes.

For past years, HM Revenue and Customs has produced a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax, PAYE income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT).

National Statistics for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors can be found in table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website available at the following internet address. This table includes a sectoral breakdown of receipts for financial years from 2000-01. The sectors are defined by HMRC's summary trade classifications. There are some slight methodological differences between these figures and those published by the OBR, which mean that they are not fully comparable.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Total PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities combined are shown, split by sector in the accompanying table back to 1999-2000. These figures are for financial years (amounts received by HMRC between April and March). This differs slightly to the national accounts basis underlying the PAYE figures published by the OBR and referred to above (amounts received by HMRC between May and April).

The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' Standard Industrial Classification 2003.

Total receipts for PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs in respect of employee and employer liabilities combined from financial intermediation, 1999-2000 to 2010-11

	Receipts (£ billion)
1999-2000	11.9
2000-01	15.5
2001-02	15.1
2002-03	15.5
2003-04	17.0
2004-05	18.7
2005-06	20.7
2006-07	24.1
2007-08	26.2
2008-09	23.7
2009-10	23.2
2010-11	26.6

Declared VAT is published by trade group in table 23 of HMRC's latest VAT factsheet. This can be accessed at the following location on the internet and provides estimates back to 2004.

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Archived factsheets provide figures for earlier years, available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factarchive&factcategory=8

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has any plans to review the availability of the national insurance holiday scheme to regions not currently within the scheme; [66965]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 817-18, on national insurance contributions, what steps he is taking to increase take-up of the national insurance holiday scheme. [66966]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: The information is as follows:

(1) The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to regions not currently within the scheme. We believe, however, that the best use of public funds is to target the NICs holiday at supporting new businesses in their first year, reducing the cost of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

(2) From the date of the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), new employers calling HMRC's new employer helpline have heard a recorded message about the holiday. From 6 September 2010, all new employers registering for a PAYE scheme with HMRC

have received a flyer promoting the scheme, directing them to the Business Link site which has promoted the holiday and provided guidance in support of the application process from the outset. This guidance was updated in May 2011 to widen the scope of those entitled to apply for the holiday to include authorised agents.

In addition, HMRC has been working with employer representatives to raise the profile of the scheme and is exploring further opportunities to promote it wherever possible.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for the national insurance holiday scheme had been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in each region as at 30 June 2011. [67042]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Up to 30 June 2011, HMRC had received *(a)* 4,919 successful and *(b)* 158 unsuccessful applications for the NICs holiday from new businesses. The regional breakdown is as follows:

	Successful	*Unsuccessful*
Northern Ireland	211	11
Scotland	696	14
Wales	293	12
East Midlands	475	11
North East	319	15
North West	896	27
South West	810	24
West Midlands	596	25
Yorkshire and Humber	623	19
Total	4,919	158

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the guidance issued on the calculation of the value of estimated tax receipts for all public sector economic assessments of all private finance initiative projects. [67676]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The existing guidance on how to evaluate taxation differences which arise when considering the use of the private finance initiative (PFI) is available as supplementary guidance to the Green Book at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_supguidance.htm

The guidance outlines how to estimate the differential tax rate, which is used to uplift the Public Sector Comparator cost used in Value for Money assessments to ensure the decision is taken net of tax take.

We will continue to use this method when considering differential tax take in the value for money assessment for projects involving private finance.

Public Sector: Pensions

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has assessed the potential effect of implementation of the proposals contained in the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's Final Report on the average life expectancy of *(a)* teachers, *(b)* NHS workers, *(c)* local government workers and *(d)* civil servants. [64194]

Danny Alexander: The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission found that in the context of uncertain and increasing longevity current scheme designs are not sufficiently robust to ensure the sustainability of public service pensions. The package of reforms recommended by the Commission is a balanced deal that will deliver fair outcomes for public service workers and for taxpayers and build trust and confidence in the system.

HM Treasury does not make estimates of life expectancy, but instead uses figures produced by the Office for National Statistics. The latest life expectancy data are available on the ONS webpage at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15098&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of public sector pensions in each year since 1997. [66721]

Danny Alexander: Expenditure on unfunded central and local government pensions since 1997 has been published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis. This covers expenditure in the central unfunded public service schemes, but not the locally administered police and firefighters' pension schemes or the funded Local Government Pension Scheme. This information is shown in nominal terms in the following table:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2001	14,773
2002	16,518
2003	16,080
2004	16,377
2005	17,641
2006	19,080
2007	21,356
2008	22,525
2009	24,350
2010	25,875

PESA.2011 is available online at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa_July11_natstats.htm

Estimates of expenditure on a national accounts basis are also published by the Office for National Statistics in the Blue Book and by the Office for Budget Responsibility in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Employer contributions paid into for the funded Local Government Pension Scheme in England since 1999 are presented in chapter 7 of the Local Government Financial Statistics England 2010. These are shown in nominal terms in the following table and the full document is available online at the following address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics202010

	Employer contributions (£ million)
1999-2000	2,273
2000-01	2,617
2001-02	2,916
2002-03	3,217
2003-04	3,544
2004-05	4,124
2005-06	4,626
2006-07	5,009
2007-08	5,400
2008-09	5,759

Revenue and Customs: Technology

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on freight detection technology in each year since 2007. [67738]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

During the period, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UK Border Agency (UKBA) spent the following amounts on the purchase of high energy cargo scanning systems:

	£
2007-08	992,375
2008-09	408,625
2009-10	8,007,500
2010-11	0
Total	9,408,500

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on transitional arrangements for women born in 1953 and 1954 when implementing a new statutory retirement age; and if he will make a statement. [61917]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), regularly discusses a range of social security and employment related matters with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith).

EDUCATION

Children and Families Ministerial Taskforce

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what work has been undertaken by the Childhood and Families Taskforce to date; and what meetings the Taskforce has convened since it was established; [66272]

(2) who the *(a)* members of and *(b)* contributors to the Childhood and Families Taskforce are. [66289]

Sarah Teather: The Prime Minister set up the Childhood and Families Task Force to ensure policies across different departments come together to tackle some of the major obstacles to a happy childhood and a successful family life.

The Childhood and Families Task Force is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises: the Deputy Prime Minister; the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Duncan Smith); the Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather); the Minister for Universities and Science (Mr Willetts); the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening); and the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton).

Since the Childhood and Families Task Force was established, there have been regular ministerial meetings and it has overseen a range of activities led by the Departments that are members of the group, including: Reg Bailey's review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of children; the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen)'s review of early intervention; the modern workplaces consultation; the £30 million dedicated fund for relationship support; the Family Justice Review; and action to meet the ambition to turn around the lives of families with multiple problems.

Children in Care

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who is legally responsible for the actions of children taken into care and placed with foster parents; and if he will make a statement. [66163]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* Legal responsibility for the actions of a child placed with foster carers will depend on the legal status of the child and what the actions concerned are. A child above the age of criminal responsibility could be legally responsible for his or her criminal actions. Broadly speaking the child's foster carer is responsible for the child's day-to-day behaviour by, for example, ensuring that they go to school.

In the case of a voluntarily accommodated child the parent(s) will have parental responsibility. If the child is subject to a care order the local authority will also have parental responsibility.

As corporate parents, we expect local authorities to act as the best possible parent for each child they look after and to advocate on his or her behalf to secure the best possible outcomes. The child's social worker will maintain regular contact with the child and carer to ensure that the child is being appropriately supported.

Children in Care: Adoption

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to increase the likelihood of children in care being adopted into stable families. [67357]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I am determined to see more children in care adopted, where this is in their best interests and the best possible support given to adoptive families to help ensure the success and permanence of adoptions. I want to see more children considered for adoption who in the past may have been overlooked—children who are older or have disabilities or very complex needs. I particularly want local authorities to consider carefully their matching and placement practice in respect of black and minority ethnic children who often wait much longer than others.

That is why I have recently appointed Martin Narey, former chief executive of Barnardo's, as Ministerial Adviser on Adoption. He will visit individual local authorities to identify and share good practice, and challenge poorer practices, especially for those children who are often overlooked for adoption—older children, disabled children—or who can face significant delay, such as black children. I have published his full remit on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/a00192226/martin-narey-appointed-as-ministerial-adviser-on-adoption

I set up last year a ministerial advisory group on adoption to help steer my wider programme of reform. In November I wrote to directors of children's services and lead members emphasising the importance of adoption and of reducing delays in the adoption process. I subsequently published revised statutory adoption guidance, and an Adoption Data Pack which highlights the variations between local authorities. I have also hosted a number of roundtable events with adoptive parents, adopted children, judges, directors of children's services and adoption panels to take their views about where change is needed.

The Department also provides grant funding to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering to promote adoption, including through National Adoption Week and National Exchange Days, and to the Coram Foundation and Barnardo's to support local authorities in improving their adoption outcomes. I have also approved funding to extend the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme (an evidence-based intervention programme for children in care) to adopted children and families.

All of this is within the wider context of the work the Government are undertaking to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families. This includes action following the Munro Review of Child Protection and the work of the Family Justice Review.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67221]

Mr Gibb: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with an interest or responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

CSE

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entered for and *(b)* passed each CSE subject in each year since 1981. [65076]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not available.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66606]

Tim Loughton: It is the Department's policy to include a condition in any appropriate contract that contractors employ apprentices during the delivery of that contract. There is no similar obligation on suppliers in the supply chain.

Contractors are encouraged to provide relevant skills training to their staff.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61175]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education occupies three office properties outside of Greater London, the details of which are listed in the following table:

Property name	*Address*	*Value (£)*
Castle View House	East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2DB	7,500,000
Mowden Hall	Staindrop Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG	2,835,000
2 St Paul's Place	125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FL	22,390,000

The Mowden Hall site in Darlington and the Castle View House site in Runcorn are freehold properties owned by the Department. The St Paul's Place building in Sheffield is also owned by the Department, but the ground lease is not and the Department pays a 'peppercorn' rent, which runs until September 2259. Both the Mowden Hall site and the St Paul's Place facility are fully occupied. The Castle View House site is currently 73% utilised with the remaining space being actively marketed to the public and private sector both commercially and through the Government Property Unit.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66759]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's carbon emission were as follows:

(a) In June 2010, the Department emitted 694 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

(b) In June 2011, the Department emitted 576 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

These data comprise energy use from the Department's four headquarter buildings and business travel data. Travel data for June 2011 have been estimated based on 2010 emission levels.

The Department has exceeded the Prime Minister's target of reducing carbon emissions by 10%, achieving a reduction of 21.5%, and is now focused on Government's further agenda to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2015.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 978W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67933]

Tim Loughton: On 4 July 2011 the Department confirmed the installation of solar panels at its Sheffield site. The specification, procurement and installation of the panels were undertaken as part of the pre-tenancy 'fit-out' work, managed by a third party contractor, prior to the occupation of the building by the Department. As a result, the Department does not hold the information requested.

Departmental e-mail

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he has issued to officials of his Department on the use of e-mail accounts not supported by his Government's IT system to communicate with *(a)* schools considering academy status and *(b)* individuals, groups, charities, businesses and other bodies applying to establish free schools. [67694]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The guidance issued to staff in the Department for Education on the use of personal, non-DFE e-mail accounts for communications relating to their official duties (irrespective of the individual or organisation being communicated with) is as follows:

'Never use non-DfE email services (such as your own personal internet email account on Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, AOL, MobileMe, etc.) to carry out Departmental business.'

A more detailed extract from this guidance for DFE staff, covering the salient points, is as follows:

Annex

Essential steps to protect information in DFE

Use only official DFE ICT systems, services and devices to access or store DFE information

Official DFE ICT (Information and Communications Technology), computing and telephony services, systems and devices, have been configured, risk assessed, and tested to ensure they are secure enough for Departmental business. Official DFE mobile devices (Laptops and BlackBerry's) have HM Government approved strong encryption enabled.

You should therefore:

Never use non-DFE devices (such as your own laptop, PC, Mac, PDA or memory stick) to access or store DFE Information.

Never use non-DFE e-mail services (such as your own personal internet e-mail account on Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, AOL, MobileMe, etc.) to carry out departmental business.

Never set your 'Out of Office' message or e-mail forwarding rules to direct official e-mail to your personal internet e-mail account.

If you have a compelling requirement to conduct DFE business when away from the office, but do not already have the appropriate DFE remote working tools to support this, talk to your line manager about making the business case.

Why is this so important?

The loss or compromise of personal or otherwise sensitive information that has not been adequately protected can have serious consequences including:

Financial loss, disruption to the work of the Department, or distress to citizens or staff;

Damage to DFE's reputation which could in turn lead to loss of public confidence in the services of our Department or of Government as a whole;

Breach of the Data Protection Act, which could lead to public censure of the Department by the Information Commissioner, whose statutory powers also include the right to impose fines on the Department of up to £500,000.

Use of unapproved ICT systems, services and devices could also put in jeopardy the Department's continued right to use the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) which we rely on for secure intra-government e-mail and data sharing.

As well as breaching security rules the use of unapproved ICT systems, services and devices to conduct Government business also creates Information Management issues. For example: information not held on DFE ICT systems would not be searched when responding to a Freedom of Information (FOI) Request.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66576]

Tim Loughton: A breakdown of reported lost or stolen property from the Department for Education in the last 12 month period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 is as follows:

	Lost (a)	*Stolen (b)*	*Total*	*Total estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Laptops		4	4	4,008.00
BlackBerry	10	4	14	2,870.00
Mobile phone	3		3	255.00
Memory stick	5		5	820.00
Signify token	3		3	148.50
Projector		1	1	[1]0
Headset	1		1	[1]0
Staff passes	—	—	94	485.98

[1] Not replaced

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67249]

Tim Loughton: The information on how many procurement contracts were awarded by the Department for Education to small and medium-sized enterprises since May 2010 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can tell my hon. Friend that under the transparency agenda, since January 2011, the Department for Education has reported 43 separate contracts awarded, 27 of which were to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67250]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not maintain a central record of those contracts that have not been advertised, for example contracts that have been let following a call off from a framework agreement. To include those contracts in the calculation of the proportion of contracts advertised on Contracts Finder could be done only at disproportionate costs.

However, of the 23 contracts that have been advertised since 1 January 2011, 11 or 48% have been advertised on Contracts Finder.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Access to Education Advocate on *(a)* the abolition of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and *(b)* the new 16 to 19 Bursary Fund; and whether any such discussions took place prior to the announcement of the abolition of the EMA. [67880]

Mr Gibb: Between the date of his appointment, in December 2010, and the announcement of the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund in March 2011, the Advocate for Access to Education met regularly Department for Education officials and Ministers to discuss financial support for young people. We took account of his work in designing the new 16 to 19 Bursary Fund, which schools and colleges will be able to use to support those students who most need financial assistance to continue in education or training post-16.

Equality Act 2010

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to enable schools to meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. [66814]

Sarah Teather: The Equality Act 2010 simplifies and consolidates the protections and duties which existed under previous equality legislation. Where the law has changed or protection has been extended to cover new protected groups, schools that were already complying with previous equality legislation and with education law more broadly should not experience any significant difference or difficulty with what they now need to do to comply.

To help schools meet their obligations under the Act, the Department for Education has produced web-based advice which explains what the law requires and provides examples of action that could constitute unlawful discrimination. This advice will be updated shortly to include an explanation of what the new public sector equality specific duties will mean for schools once they come into force.

The Department is also working with the education sector, including teaching unions, to ensure that schools have available to them resources and case studies giving them a framework of examples of what they may do to comply.

Early Years Provision

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what timetable he has set for the review of the code of practice for local authorities on delivery of free early years provision for children aged three and four; [65822]

(2) what criteria he plans to use in undertaking the review of the code of practice for local authorities on delivery of free early years provision for children aged three and four. [65823]

Sarah Teather: We will be consulting in the autumn on streamlining the code of practice for local authorities on delivery of free early years provision for three and four-year-olds. The aim of the review will be to ensure that the code is clearly understood by local authorities enabling them to set out a clear offer to parents and their children and to providers; does all it can to promote children's access to their entitlement; and reduces national prescription and so helps to free up local authorities (and in turn providers) from unnecessary and often burdensome red tape.

The consultation will be published on the Department's website and will run for 12 weeks. The consultation will conform to the seven criteria set out in the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation which can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations

The intention is that revised statutory guidance will come into force in September 2012. It will follow the Department's new approach to advice and guidance which is explained on the website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice

Further Education: Access

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* staff in his Department have had with the Access to Education Advocate on further education for those aged 16 to 19 years. [67882]

Mr Gibb: The right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) was appointed as Advocate for Access to Education to work with the Government to ensure that their goal of increasing participation in higher education by those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds is met. During the course of his work, he has met Department for Education Ministers and officials to discuss matters relating to further education for those aged 16 to 19 years.

Further Education: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been allocated for 16 to 19 bursaries in each local authority area for 2011-12. [66836]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 18 July 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions PQ66836 and PQ66837 that ask:

"How much has been allocated for the education maintenance allowance replacement bursaries in each local authority area for 2011-12." PQ66836

"How much has been allocated from the education maintenance allowance replacement bursary fund to each school and college in London for 2011-12." PQ66837

We are still finalising the bursary allocations for the academic year 2011/12 for individual schools, colleges and other education and training providers and we are therefore not yet able to provide the information you have requested. We intend to publish the bursary allocations shortly and I will write to you with the details asked for as soon as possible.

Further Education: Transport

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to review local authority transport statements for young people aged 16 to 18 years for 2011-12. [66177]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Legislation requires local authorities to publish a transport policy statement by the end of May each year. The statement should set out the arrangements that the local authority will make in the following academic year to help students of sixth-form age access education and training. The Department for Education is in the process of establishing whether all local authorities have published their 2011 transport statements.

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* modern schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges, *(f)* other further education sector colleges and *(g)* in total gained grades (i) A*, (ii) A, (iii) B, (iv) C, (v) D, (vi) E and (vii) U for A-levels in (A) mathematics, (B) further mathematics, (C) English, (D) physics, (E) chemistry, (F) biology, (G) geography, (H) history, (I) a classical language and (J) a modern language in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [65496]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* modern schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges, *(f)* other further education sector colleges and *(g)* in total gained at least three A-levels at grade AAB or above of which two or more were from the following subjects (i) mathematics, (ii) further mathematics, (iii) English, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) geography, (viii) history, (ix) a classical language and (x) a modern language in the most recent academic year for which figures are available; [65497]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* modern schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges, *(f)* other further education sector colleges and *(g)* in total gained at least three A-levels at grade AAB or above from the following combination (i) mathematics, (ii) further mathematics, (iii) English, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) geography, (viii) history, (ix) a classical language and (x) a modern language in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [65498]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The requested information for 2010 is shown in the following table.

School type	*Number of students taking GCE A levels*	*Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above*	*Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above of which two or more were from the subjects listed above*	*Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above from the subjects listed above*	*Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above*	*Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above of which two or more were from the subjects listed above*	*Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above from the subjects listed above*
Comprehensive schools	124,846	15,336	11,712	7,010	12	9	6
Selective schools	22,006	7,720	6,336	4,017	35	29	18
Modern schools	4,057	124	79	45	3	2	1

School type	Number of students taking GCE A levels	Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above	Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above of which two or more were from the subjects listed above	Number of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above from the subjects listed above	Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above	Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above of which two or more were from the subjects listed above	Percentage of students who gained at least three GCE A levels at grade AAB or above from the subjects listed above
Other maintained schools	873	55	42	25	6	5	3
Independent schools	35,245	14,511	11,829	6,901	41	34	20
Sixth form colleges	52,641	7,163	4,755	2,627	14	9	5
Other further education sector colleges	27,677	2,042	1,301	712	7	5	3
Total (England)	267,345	46,951	36,054	21,337	18	13	8

Notes: 1. Students get counted once (at their highest grade) if they have been entered for more than one A level in any subject category. 2. The figures in this answer are derived from data collected for the Performance tables.

GCE O-level

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entered for and *(b)* passed each GCE O-level subject in each year since 1981. [65075]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not available.

GCSE

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entered for and *(b)* passed each GCSE subject in each year since 1997. [65074]

Mr Gibb: The requested information from 1997 to 2010 has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCE A-level: History

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in 2010; and how many and what proportion of pupils obtained a grade C or above in history A-level in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) maintained selective schools and (iii) independent schools in 2010. [65363]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Institution type	Number of students taking A-levels in 2010	Number of students who were entered for History A-level in 2010	Percentage of students who were entered for History A-level in 2010	Number of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A-level in 2010	Percentage of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A-level in 2010[1]
Comprehensive schools	131,745	22,062	16.7	16,569	75.1
Selective schools	24,431	4,692	19.2	4,363	93.0
Modern schools	3,975	506	12.7	295	58.3
Other maintained schools	986	108	11.0	73	67.6
Independent schools	38,681	7,587	19.6	7,149	94.2
Sixth form colleges	56,099	6,808	12.1	5,441	79.9
Other further education sector colleges	30,298	3,383	11.2	2,291	67.7
England	286,215	45,146	15.8	36,181	80.1

[1] Number of students achieving a grade C or above in history A-level as a percentage of the number of students entered for A-level history.

Source:
School and College Performance Tables

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history A-level in each local authority area in 2010; and how many and what proportion of pupils entered for history A-level obtained a grade C or above in each local authority area in 2010. [65367]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The requested information is shown in the following table:

GCE A-level History entries and achievements by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of A level students in each local authority*	*Number of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Number of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*[1]
North East	10,421	1,581	15.2	1,178	74.5
Darlington	924	146	15.8	110	75.3
Durham	1,540	267	17.3	216	80.9
Gateshead	720	142	19.7	107	75.4
Hartlepool	418	35	8.4	27	77.1
Middlesbrough	482	41	8.5	22	53.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,163	168	14.4	115	68.5
North Tyneside	852	133	15.6	102	76.7
Northumberland	1,466	237	16.2	179	75.5
Redcar and Cleveland	772	90	11.7	68	75.6
South Tyneside	378	41	10.8	34	82.9
Stockton-on-Tees	858	136	15.9	98	72.1
Sunderland	848	145	17.1	100	69.0
North West	33,904	4,417	13.0	3,435	77.8
Blackburn with Darwen	838	77	9.2	57	74.0
Blackpool	811	71	8.8	44	62.0
Bolton	1,034	125	12.1	86	68.8
Bury	1,463	165	11.3	132	80.0
Cheshire East	1,867	342	18.3	270	78.9
Cheshire West and Chester	2,421	262	10.8	202	77.1
Cumbria	2,350	403	17.1	294	73.0
Halton	272	44	16.2	33	75.0
Knowsley	212	11	5.2	4	36.4
Lancashire	4,650	615	13.2	529	86.0
Liverpool	2,089	395	18.9	264	66.8
Manchester	2,081	183	8.8	144	78.7
Oldham	1,388	127	9.1	113	89.0
Rochdale	297	31	10.4	22	71.0
Salford	812	106	13.1	85	80.2
Sefton	1,653	216	13.1	157	72.7
St. Helens	1,017	97	9.5	72	74.2
Stockport	1,623	140	8.6	118	84.3
Tameside	865	86	9.9	64	74.4
Trafford	1,199	236	19.7	199	84.3
Warrington	1,078	182	16.9	132	72.5
Wigan	1,733	238	13.7	212	89.1
Wirral	2,151	265	12.3	202	76.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	22,603	3,289	14.6	2,435	74.0
Barnsley	461	80	17.4	47	58.8
Bradford	1,849	218	11.8	150	68.8
Calderdale	920	141	15.3	103	73.0
Doncaster	1,051	138	13.1	84	60.9
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,272	269	21.1	189	70.3
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	894	75	8.4	63	84.0
Kirklees	2,156	326	15.1	253	77.6
Leeds	3,284	584	17.8	437	74.8
North East Lincolnshire	668	47	7.0	35	74.5
North Lincolnshire	921	118	12.8	90	76.3
North Yorkshire	3,273	537	16.4	435	81.0
Rotherham	1,424	182	12.8	116	63.7
Sheffield	2,019	287	14.2	210	73.2
Wakefield	1,372	129	9.4	100	77.5
York	1,039	158	15.2	123	77.8
East Midlands	20,693	3,234	15.6	2,365	73.1
Derby	1,033	194	18.8	143	73.7

GCE A-level History entries and achievements by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of A level students in each local authority*	*Number of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Number of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*[1]
Derbyshire	2,830	535	18.9	404	75.5
Leicester	1,638	104	6.3	68	65.4
Leicestershire	3,553	358	10.1	269	75.1
Lincolnshire	3,386	663	19.6	527	79.5
Northamptonshire	3,421	586	17.1	388	66.2
Nottingham	1,638	230	14.0	169	73.5
Nottinghamshire	3,194	564	17.7	397	70.4
West Midlands	25,389	3,679	14.5	2,659	72.3
Birmingham	4,881	632	12.9	480	75.9
Coventry	1,296	187	14.4	137	73.3
Dudley	1,763	256	14.5	190	74.2
Herefordshire	976	170	17.4	149	87.6
Sandwell	539	73	13.5	41	56.2
Shropshire	1,439	187	13.0	150	80.2
Solihull	1,507	189	12.5	144	76.2
Staffordshire	3,595	610	17.0	400	65.6
Stoke-on-Trent	835	115	13.8	70	60.9
Telford and Wrekin	903	133	14.7	118	88.7
Walsall	1,300	224	17.2	144	64.3
Warwickshire	2,793	426	15.3	337	79.1
Wolverhampton	982	104	10.6	59	56.7
Worcestershire	2,580	373	14.5	240	64.3
East of England	28,183	5,179	18.4	4,079	78.8
Bedford	922	161	17.5	101	62.7
Bedfordshire, Central	1,220	218	17.9	150	68.8
Cambridgeshire	2,936	665	22.6	557	83.8
Essex	6,355	1,058	16.6	839	79.3
Hertfordshire	7,178	1,451	20.2	1,181	81.4
Luton	862	86	10.0	68	79.1
Norfolk	3,471	606	17.5	458	75.6
Peterborough	805	148	18.4	105	70.9
Southend-on-Sea	1,079	208	19.3	184	88.5
Suffolk	2,780	514	18.5	389	75.7
Thurrock	575	64	11.1	47	73.4
London	36,348	5,401	14.9	4,352	80.6
Inner London	9,732	1,378	14.2	1,126	81.7
Camden	976	208	21.3	180	86.5
Hackney	384	32	8.3	26	81.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	773	113	14.6	91	80.5
Haringey	662	104	15.7	80	76.9
Islington	640	59	9.2	39	66.1
Kensington and Chelsea	486	79	16.3	73	92.4
Lambeth	345	42	12.2	30	71.4
Lewisham	1,189	204	17.2	168	82.4
Newham	838	54	6.4	45	83.3
Southwark	373	71	19.0	59	83.1
Tower Hamlets	692	54	7.8	42	77.8
Wandsworth	1,392	218	15.7	179	82.1
Westminster	982	140	14.3	114	81.4
Outer London	26,616	4,023	15.1	3,226	80.2
Barking and Dagenham	663	103	15.5	70	68.0
Barnet	2,701	447	16.5	398	89.0
Bexley	1,250	267	21.4	177	66.3
Brent	1,304	209	16.0	179	85.6

GCE A-level History entries and achievements by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of A level students in each local authority*	*Number of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who were entered for History A level in 2010*	*Number of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*	*Percentage of students who achieved a grade C or above in History A level in 2010*[1]
Bromley	2,249	314	14.0	237	75.5
Croydon	1,212	152	12.5	123	80.9
Ealing	1,071	154	14.4	134	87.0
Enfield	1,573	259	16.5	200	77.2
Greenwich	773	90	11.6	65	72.2
Harrow	1,356	166	12.2	139	83.7
Havering	1,551	275	17.7	220	80.0
Hillingdon	1,432	191	13.3	142	74.3
Hounslow	1,372	207	15.1	184	88.9
Kingston upon Thames	1,283	192	15.0	157	81.8
Merton	286	27	9.4	21	77.8
Redbridge	2,250	317	14.1	247	77.9
Richmond upon Thames	1,192	205	17.2	162	79.0
Sutton	1,642	281	17.1	256	91.1
Waltham Forest	1,456	167	11.5	115	68.9
South East	45,956	7,081	15.4	5,632	79.5
Bracknell Forest	396	61	15.4	44	72.1
Brighton and Hove	1,539	289	18.8	243	84.1
Buckinghamshire	3,487	614	17.6	555	90.4
East Sussex	2,192	312	14.2	223	71.5
Hampshire	9,307	1,222	13.1	958	78.4
Isle of Wight	467	81	17.3	56	69.1
Kent	7,170	1,211	16.9	992	81.9
Medway	1,427	215	15.1	162	75.3
Milton Keynes	1,093	194	17.7	141	72.7
Oxfordshire	3,345	591	17.7	473	80.0
Portsmouth	283	30	10.6	17	56.7
Reading	494	103	20.9	81	78.6
Slough	870	109	12.5	89	81.7
Southampton	796	85	10.7	56	65.9
Surrey	6,459	995	15.4	791	79.5
West Berkshire	1,068	186	17.4	154	82.8
West Sussex	3,952	517	13.1	395	76.4
Windsor and Maidenhead	789	115	14.6	83	72.2
Wokingham	822	151	18.4	119	78.8
South West	24,037	3,698	15.4	2,897	78.3
Bath and North East Somerset	928	194	20.9	173	89.2
Bournemouth	514	72	14.0	65	90.3
Bristol, City of	1,680	184	11.0	129	70.1
Cornwall	2,218	250	11.3	169	67.6
Devon	3,083	417	13.5	333	79.9
Dorset	1,951	299	15.3	225	75.3
Gloucestershire	3,641	634	17.4	517	81.5
North Somerset	868	119	13.7	92	77.3
Plymouth	1,144	233	20.4	184	79.0
Poole	887	156	17.6	123	78.8
Somerset	2,334	425	18.2	343	80.7
South Gloucestershire	1,185	155	13.1	106	68.4
Swindon	961	101	10.5	65	64.4
Torbay	695	99	14.2	74	74.7
Wiltshire	1,948	360	18.5	299	83.1
Total	247,534	37,559	15.2	29,032	77.3

[1] Number of students achieving a grade C or above in History A-level as a percentage of the number of students entered for A-level History.

Notes:

1. The figures in this answer are derived from data collected for the Performance tables.
2. The figures provided cover students aged 16-18 in maintained schools and further education colleges.

GCSE: History

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many mainstream secondary schools no pupil obtained grade C or above at history GCSE in 2010; and how many mainstream secondary schools did not enter any pupils for a history GCSE in 2010. [65364]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Of the 3,881 mainstream secondary schools with pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, 159 had no pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 entered for GCSE history in 2010.

There were no schools that entered pupils for a GCSE in history and had no pupils achieve a grade A* to C; therefore in 159 mainstream secondary schools no pupils achieved a grade A* to C in GCSE history in 2010.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective maintained schools and *(c)* independent schools in 2010; and how many and what proportion of pupils entered for history GCSE in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective maintained schools and (iii) independent schools obtained a grade C or above in 2010. [65366]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The requested information is given in the following table:

	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in 2010	*Pupils entered for History GCSE in 2010*		*Pupils entered for History GCSE who obtained a grade C or above in 2010*	
	Number	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Comprehensive schools	520,914	155,982	30	101,897	65
Selective maintained schools	22,607	12,389	55	11,827	95
Independent schools	49,932	23,798	48	22,297	94

Notes:
1. Pupils are at the end of Key Stage 4.
2. The data used to answer this question are derived from the 2010 School and College Performance tables.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in mainstream maintained secondary schools were entered for history GCSE in each local authority area in 2010. [65387]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

GCSE history entries in all mainstream maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of pupils on roll in the local authority at the end of key stage 4*	*Pupils who were entered for GCSE history in 2010*	
		Number	*Percentage*
North East	28,849	7,848	27.2
Darlington	1,142	247	21.6
Durham	5,351	1,358	25.4
Gateshead	2,084	624	29.9
Hartlepool	1,224	405	33.1
Middlesbrough	1,644	402	24.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,484	484	19.5
North Tyneside	2,090	758	36.3
Northumberland	3,544	981	27.7
Redcar and Cleveland	1,926	564	29.3
South Tyneside	1,715	416	24.3
Stockton-on-Tees	2,266	738	32.6
Sunderland	3,379	871	25.8
North West	80,462	22,850	28.4
Blackburn with Darwen	1,725	491	28.5
Blackpool	1,575	398	25.3
Bolton	3,499	930	26.6
Bury	2,216	640	28.9
Cheshire East	3,922	1,390	35.4
Cheshire West and Chester	3,938	1,183	30.0
Cumbria	6,064	2,070	34.1
Halton	1,498	414	27.6
Knowsley	1,601	269	16.8
Lancashire	13,218	3,782	28.6
Liverpool	4,989	1,479	29.6
Manchester	4,415	919	20.8
Oldham	2,977	671	22.5
Rochdale	2,520	692	27.5
Salford	2,140	564	26.4
Sefton	3,293	922	28.0
St Helens	1,983	409	20.6
Stockport	2,973	798	26.8
Tameside	2,881	635	22.0
Trafford	2,825	1,029	36.4
Warrington	2,489	976	39.2
Wigan	3,810	911	23.9
Wirral	3,911	1,278	32.7
Yorkshire and Humber	59,396	16,984	28.6
Barnsley	2,547	703	27.6
Bradford	5,783	1,244	21.5
Calderdale	2,593	884	34.1

GCSE history entries in all mainstream maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of pupils on roll in the local authority at the end of key stage 4*	*Pupils who were entered for GCSE history in 2010*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Doncaster	3,551	1,024	28.8
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,940	1,532	38.9
Kingston upon Hull, City of	2,739	603	22.0
Kirklees	4,534	1,259	27.8
Leeds	8,063	2,472	30.7
North East Lincolnshire	1,979	441	22.3
North Lincolnshire	2,009	448	22.3
North Yorkshire	6,862	2,436	35.5
Rotherham	3,588	838	23.4
Sheffield	5,514	1,539	27.9
Wakefield	3,954	944	23.9
York	1,740	617	35.5
East Midlands	51,064	14,615	28.6
Derby	2,839	626	22.1
Derbyshire	8,694	2,622	30.2
Leicester	3,457	782	22.6
Leicestershire	7,380	1,587	21.5
Lincolnshire	8,508	2,751	32.3
Northamptonshire	7,871	2,472	31.4
Nottingham	2,711	610	22.5
Nottinghamshire	9,112	2,930	32.2
Rutland	492	235	47.8
West Midlands	63,495	19,198	30.2
Birmingham	11,984	3,538	29.5
Coventry	3,545	818	23.1
Dudley	3,883	1,210	31.2
Herefordshire	1,898	746	39.3
Sandwell	3,521	767	21.8
Shropshire	3,256	1,052	32.3
Solihull	3,039	886	29.2
Staffordshire	9,569	3,253	34.0
Stoke-on-Trent	2,538	661	26.0
Telford and Wrekin	2,091	620	29.7
Walsall	3,548	900	25.4
Warwickshire	6,013	2,175	36.2
Wolverhampton	2,671	637	23.8
Worcestershire	5,939	1,935	32.6
East of England	64,657	22,728	35.2
Bedford	1,803	449	24.9
Bedfordshire, Central	2,930	1,002	34.2
Cambridgeshire	5,977	2,363	39.5
Essex	15,991	5,279	33.0
Hertfordshire	12,805	4,988	39.0
Luton	2,357	786	33.3
Norfolk	8,962	3,170	35.4
Peterborough	2,214	751	33.9
Southend-on-Sea	2,179	734	33.7
Suffolk	7,666	2,752	35.9
Thurrock	1,773	454	25.6
London	73,063	23,397	32.0
Inner London	22,556	6,125	27.2
Camden	1,470	472	32.1
Hackney	1,286	346	26.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,006	442	43.9
Haringey	2,105	524	24.9
Islington	1,382	359	26.0
Kensington and Chelsea	548	217	39.6
Lambeth	1,550	418	27.0
Lewisham	2,123	674	31.7
Newham	3,330	519	15.6
Southwark	2,269	669	29.5
Tower Hamlets	2,393	480	20.1
Wandsworth	1,754	555	31.6
Westminster	1,340	450	33.6
Outer London	50,507	17,272	34.2
Barking and Dagenham	2,108	587	27.8
Barnet	3,355	1,376	41.0
Bexley	3,213	1,309	40.7
Brent	2,803	733	26.2
Bromley	3,358	1,252	37.3
Croydon	3,631	1,084	29.9
Ealing	2,802	931	33.2
Enfield	3,583	1,280	35.7
Greenwich	2,261	643	28.4
Harrow	2,138	733	34.3
Havering	3,057	1,102	36.0
Hillingdon	2,990	829	27.7
Hounslow	2,611	982	37.6
Kingston upon Thames	1,433	536	37.4
Merton	1,533	427	27.9
Redbridge	3,174	1,090	34.3
Richmond upon Thames	1,317	598	45.4
Sutton	2,610	1,044	40.0
Waltham Forest	2,530	736	29.1
South East	89,266	30,413	34.1
Bracknell Forest	1,087	513	47.2
Brighton and Hove	2,299	658	28.6
Buckinghamshire	5,619	2,208	39.3
East Sussex	5,311	1,556	29.3

GCSE history entries in all mainstream maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of pupils on roll in the local authority at the end of key stage 4*	*Pupils who were entered for GCSE history in 2010*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Hampshire	13,937	4,961	35.6
Isle of Wight	1,522	526	34.6
Kent	16,490	5,095	30.9
Medway	3,368	955	28.4
Milton Keynes	2,694	734	27.2
Oxfordshire	6,284	2,411	38.4
Portsmouth	1,867	598	32.0
Reading	972	372	38.3
Slough	1,545	455	29.4
Southampton	2,058	528	25.7
Surrey	10,529	3,649	34.7
West Berkshire	1,965	814	41.4
West Sussex	8,393	2,988	35.6
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,511	594	39.3
Wokingham	1,815	798	44.0
South West	56,070	17,746	31.6
Bath and North East Somerset	2,211	760	34.4
Bournemouth	1,743	439	25.2
Bristol, City of	2,924	653	22.3
Cornwall	5,851	1,644	28.1
Devon	7,621	2,120	27.8
Dorset	4,328	1,481	34.2
Gloucestershire	6,867	2,381	34.7
Isles of Scilly	22	4	18.2
North Somerset	2,250	808	35.9
Plymouth	2,934	843	28.7
Poole	1,659	642	38.7
Somerset	5,674	2,098	37.0
South Gloucestershire	3,159	1,025	32.4
Swindon	2,170	686	31.6
Torbay	1,493	517	34.6
Wiltshire	5,164	1,645	31.9
Total: England	566,322	175,779	31.0

Notes:
1. The figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4.
2. The figures cover all mainstream maintained schools, including academies and city technology colleges.
3. The figures are derived from data collected for the performance tables.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils obtained a grade C or above in history GCSE in each local authority area in 2010. [65388]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

GCSE History achievements in all maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for GCSE History in 2010*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for, and achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010*
North East	7,873	5,067	64.4
Darlington	247	158	64.0
Durham	1,373	893	65.0
Gateshead	627	417	66.5
Hartlepool	405	250	61.7
Middlesbrough	402	236	58.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	484	332	68.6
North Tyneside	758	490	64.6
Northumberland	981	678	69.1
Redcar and Cleveland	564	389	69.0
South Tyneside	419	255	60.9
Stockton-on-Tees	738	440	59.6
Sunderland	875	529	60.5
North West	22,863	15,176	66.4
Blackburn with Darwen	491	274	55.8
Blackpool	398	208	52.3
Bolton	930	597	64.2
Bury	640	456	71.3
Cheshire East	1,390	1,027	73.9
Cheshire West and Chester	1,190	796	66.9
Cumbria	2,070	1,384	66.9
Halton	414	276	66.7
Knowsley	269	134	49.8
Lancashire	3,783	2,608	68.9
Liverpool	1,479	930	62.9
Manchester	919	484	52.7
Oldham	671	399	59.5
Rochdale	692	398	57.5
Salford	568	309	54.4
Sefton	922	628	68.1
St Helens	409	261	63.8
Stockport	798	561	70.3
Tameside	635	368	58.0
Trafford	1,029	865	84.1
Warrington	976	695	71.2
Wigan	911	600	65.9
Wirral	1,279	918	71.8
Yorkshire and Humber	16,992	10,830	63.7
Barnsley	703	368	52.3
Bradford	1,244	759	61.0
Calderdale	884	593	67.1
Doncaster	1,024	545	53.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,532	964	62.9

GCSE History achievements in all maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	Number of pupils who were entered for GCSE History in 2010	Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010	Percentage of pupils who were entered for, and achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	603	288	47.8
Kirklees	1,259	768	61.0
Leeds	2,479	1,654	66.7
North East Lincolnshire	441	293	66.4
North Lincolnshire	448	261	58.3
North Yorkshire	2,437	1,819	74.6
Rotherham	838	572	68.3
Sheffield	1,539	947	61.5
Wakefield	944	586	62.1
York	617	413	66.9
East Midlands	14,624	9,372	64.1
Derby	626	445	71.1
Derbyshire	2,622	1,744	66.5
Leicester	782	500	63.9
Leicestershire	1,587	958	60.4
Lincolnshire	2,760	1,890	68.5
Northamptonshire	2,472	1,497	60.6
Nottingham	610	355	58.2
Nottinghamshire	2,930	1,824	62.3
Rutland	235	159	67.7
West Midlands	19,217	12,321	64.1
Birmingham	3,549	2,406	67.8
Coventry	818	526	64.3
Dudley	1,210	720	59.5
Herefordshire	746	499	66.9
Sandwell	767	421	54.9
Shropshire	1,052	699	66.4
Solihull	886	618	69.8
Staffordshire	3,254	1,988	61.1
Stoke-on-Trent	661	368	55.7
Telford and Wrekin	620	393	63.4
Walsall	900	568	63.1
Warwickshire	2,182	1,382	63.3
Wolverhampton	637	389	61.1
Worcestershire	1,935	1,344	69.5
East of England	22,741	15,254	67.1
Bedford	449	288	64.1
Bedfordshire, Central	1,002	617	61.6
Cambridgeshire	2,363	1,724	73.0
Essex	5,283	3,389	64.1
Hertfordshire	4,994	3,757	75.2
Luton	786	441	56.1
Norfolk	3,172	2,020	63.7
Peterborough	751	458	61.0
Southend-on-Sea	735	589	80.1
Suffolk	2,752	1,676	60.9
Thurrock	454	295	65.0
London	23,405	16,129	68.9
Inner London	6,126	3,976	64.9
Camden	472	322	68.2
Hackney	346	246	71.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	442	359	81.2
Haringey	524	378	72.1
Islington	359	182	50.7
Kensington and Chelsea	217	182	83.9
Lambeth	418	258	61.7
Lewisham	674	389	57.7
Newham	519	320	61.7
Southwark	669	383	57.2
Tower Hamlets	480	281	58.5
Wandsworth	556	364	65.5
Westminster	450	312	69.3
Outer London	17,279	12,153	70.3
Barking and Dagenham	587	353	60.1
Barnet	1,376	1,050	76.3
Bexley	1,309	863	65.9
Brent	733	522	71.2
Bromley	1,253	952	76.0
Croydon	1,084	704	64.9
Ealing	931	619	66.5
Enfield	1,280	874	68.3
Greenwich	643	405	63.0
Harrow	733	516	70.4
Havering	1,102	771	70.0
Hillingdon	829	541	65.3
Hounslow	982	699	71.2
Kingston upon Thames	536	436	81.3
Merton	427	266	62.3
Redbridge	1,090	819	75.1
Richmond upon Thames	598	428	71.6
Sutton	1,044	887	85.0
Waltham Forest	742	448	60.4
South East	30,439	20,970	68.9
Bracknell Forest	513	339	66.1

GCSE History achievements in all maintained schools by local authority, 2010

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for GCSE History in 2010*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for, and achieved a grade C or above in GCSE History in 2010*
Brighton and Hove	658	455	69.1
Buckinghamshire	2,208	1,714	77.6
East Sussex	1,558	1,085	69.6
Hampshire	4,977	3,444	69.2
Isle of Wight	526	285	54.2
Kent	5,095	3,599	70.6
Medway	955	587	61.5
Milton Keynes	736	448	60.9
Oxfordshire	2,411	1,625	67.4
Portsmouth	598	329	55.0
Reading	372	236	63.4
Slough	455	324	71.2
Southampton	528	307	58.1
Surrey	3,649	2,639	72.3
West Berkshire	814	606	74.4
West Sussex	2,994	1,966	65.7
Windsor and Maidenhead	594	395	66.5
Wokingham	798	587	73.6
South West	17,756	11,991	67.5
Bath and North East Somerset	761	547	71.9
Bournemouth	439	313	71.3
Bristol, City of	654	415	63.5
Cornwall	1,644	1,041	63.3
Devon	2,120	1,371	64.7
Dorset	1,481	1,077	72.7
Gloucestershire	2,381	1,799	75.6
Isles of Scilly	4	3	75.0
North Somerset	808	510	63.1
Plymouth	843	545	64.7
Poole	642	429	66.8
Somerset	2,098	1,347	64.2
South Gloucestershire	1,025	631	61.6
Swindon	686	398	58.0
Torbay	517	412	79.7
Wiltshire	1,653	1,153	69.8
Total—England	175,910	117,110	66.6

Notes:
1. The figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
2. The figures cover all maintained schools, including Academies and city technology colleges.
3. The figures are derived from data collected for the Performance tables.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for GCSE history examination in *(a)* mainstream comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and how many and what proportion of such pupils achieved a grade C and above in each such year. [65834]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following tables.

						School type
	Number of pupils[1] entered for GCSE[2] history			*Percentage of pupils[1] entered for GCSE[2] history*		
	Comprehensive	*Selective*	*Independent[3]*	*Comprehensive*	*Selective*	*Independent[3]*
1997	169,298	10,922	20,984	36.3	53.7	50.1
1998	153,001	10,042	20,490	32.0	50.3	47.0
1999	153,505	10,320	19,851	31.8	50.8	46.4
2000	153,670	10,746	20,168	31.9	53.2	47.2
2001	156,816	11,338	20,891	31.3	54.1	47.5
2002	155,211	11,433	21,269	30.8	53.8	48.2
2003	155,847	11,431	21,317	30.2	52.7	48.1
2004	164,188	12,145	22,252	30.8	54.6	47.4
2005	164,298	12,327	23,619	31.2	55.3	50.5
2006	164,606	12,549	23,930	30.8	55.8	49.1
2007	161,001	11,865	23,951	29.8	52.8	49.9
2008	160,362	12,147	23,694	29.9	53.8	49.5
2009	155,381	11,914	23,229	29.9	53.2	48.0
2010	155,982	12,389	23,798	29.9	54.8	47.7

						School type
	Number of pupils[1] who achieved grade A-C in GCSE history*			*Percentage of pupils[1] who were entered for, and achieved grade A*-C in GCSE history*		
	Comprehensive	*Selective*	*Independent[3]*	*Comprehensive*	*Selective*	*Independent[3]*
1997	86,345	10,005	19,349	51.0	91.6	92.2
1998	81,168	9,528	19,043	53.1	94.9	92.9
1999	85,265	9,800	18,602	55.5	95.0	93.7
2000	86,869	10,292	18,914	56.5	95.8	93.8
2001	88,122	10,853	19,504	56.2	95.7	93.4
2002	88,617	10,852	19,995	57.1	94.9	94.0
2003	91,133	10,932	20,070	58.5	95.6	94.2
2004	97,154	11,692	21,012	59.2	96.3	94.4
2005	98,761	11,762	22,172	60.1	95.4	93.9
2006	100,031	11,927	22,391	60.8	95.0	93.6
2007	99,823	11,357	22,496	62.0	95.7	93.9
2008	100,935	11,597	22,191	62.9	95.5	93.7
2009	99,697	11,457	21,679	64.2	96.2	93.3
2010	101,897	11,827	22,297	65.4	95.4	93.7

[1] For the years 1997-2004,15-year-old pupils are counted. For the years 2005-10, pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 are counted.

[2] Only full GCSE courses have been counted.

[3] Pupils at independent special schools are also counted.

Note:

The figures for this answer have been derived from the data collected for the secondary school performance tables.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many mainstream comprehensive schools entered *(a)* no pupils, *(b)* fewer than 5% of pupils, *(c)* fewer than 10% of pupils and *(d)* fewer than 25% of pupils for GCSE history examinations in 2010. [65835][1]

Mr Gibb: 2,734 schools have been identified as being mainstream comprehensive.

All of these schools entered pupils for GCSE history

17 had fewer than 5% of pupils entered for GCSE history

139 had fewer than 10% entered for GCSE history

1,031 schools had fewer than 25% of pupils entered for GCSE history in 2010.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66063]

Tim Loughton: As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed. I refer the right hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 311-14.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase sexual awareness among pupils in schools. [67037]

Mr Gibb: The Government believe that it is important for pupils to have access to high-quality, age-appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE). Schools have a clear role in reinforcing the information that young people receive from parents and in providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to develop the knowledge they need to make wise and informed choices. SRE is compulsory in secondary schools, and primary schools may also choose to provide it. All schools must have an agreed policy on sex education.

In the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", we announced our intention to conduct an internal review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, including SRE, so that we can determine how to support schools to improve the quality of teaching in this often sensitive and challenging area. We are still considering the scope and process of the review, but we will say more about this shortly.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its associated public bodies have spent on the provision of sex and relationship education in each year since 2001. [67746]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Play Facilities

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has for the future of the Play Strategy issued by his Department's predecessor in 2008; [66078]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure adequate provision of play facilities *(a)* in urban and deprived areas and *(b)* elsewhere; [66120]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of play facilities in each local authority area. [66121]

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[1] *[Official Report, 15 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 11MC.]*

Sarah Teather: The Government recognise how important it is that children have safe, free local places to play, and the benefits these places bring to the wider community more generally. However, it is not for central Government to determine what play facilities are available in local areas, or to tell the experts in the play sector how to deliver play provision. Children, parents, play professionals and local communities best know what is most needed in their local areas.

The play capital programme finished at the end of March 2011, as originally intended under the previous Government's Play Strategy. This Government are giving councils more freedom over how they spend their money, giving communities more control over developments in their neighbourhoods, and making it easier for volunteers and charities to get involved. This should provide the opportunities for committed people and local groups to continue to influence play provision in their areas, leaving responsibility for play provision where it belongs: with local areas and their communities.

Postgraduate Education

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on plans to increase the number of universities offering PGCE courses in core subjects within the English Baccalaureate. [67871]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education estimates the number of teacher training places (including those on Post Graduate Certificates in Education courses) needed for each subject. This includes consideration of the effects of changes such as the introduction of the English Baccalaureate qualification. The Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) allocates these places to academic institutions and other providers of initial teacher training. The Department's current assessment is that there is enough capacity in the existing pool of universities who are accredited as initial teacher training providers to meet the requirement for teacher training places in all subjects, including those in the English Baccalaureate.

Postgraduate Education: Fees and Charges

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of universities which will charge £9,000 for PGCE courses in core subjects within the English Baccalaureate in 2012-13. [67872]

Mr Gibb: The Department has taken note of universities' intentions on tuition charges for undergraduate higher education, which were published by the Office for Fair Access on 12 July. The Department has not made a specific estimate of the number of universities which will charge £9,000 for PGCE courses in core subjects within the English Baccalaureate in 2012-13. The Department for Education is proposing bursaries of up to £20,000 in 2012/13 to encourage the best graduates into teaching and support them during their training. The most generous bursaries are in mathematics, science and modern languages, which are core English Baccalaureate subjects.

Primary Education: Extracurricular Activities

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to reduce the *(a)* staff training requirements and *(b)* administrative burdens associated with running a holiday play scheme under the Early Years Foundation Stage. [66147]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* On 6 July 2011, the Government launched a consultation on a revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which responded to recommendations made by Dame Clare Tickell in her review of EYFS which was published on 30 March 2011. The revised EYFS is intended to reduce burdens on all early years providers.

The consultation document maintains training requirements critical to safeguarding and welfare of children in settings including holiday play schemes. It is for managers to determine how much training they and their staff require and to make arrangements for it to be provided.

Public Service: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the potential future cost to public services in Bolton borough of the change in his Department's funding for early intervention. [64852]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not make such estimates. Local authorities are responsible for early intervention and other public services in their areas. The Government have made available £2.2 billion in 2011-12 and £2.3 billion in 2012-13 in the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to local authorities. Further information is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/

The EIG is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It is up to local authorities to judge how best to use this funding for their local communities, taking account of local need and evidence of what is most effective.

Schools: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which schools are switching to small examination boards in certain subjects. [67947]

Mr Gibb: This information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the potential effects of allowing schools to determine whether or not to commission professional careers guidance. [61322]

Mr Gibb: Proposals in the Education Bill place a clear duty on schools to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils in years 9 to

11. This includes information on the full range of 16-18 education and training options. Schools are free to determine how best to fulfil this duty, taking into account the needs of their pupils.

The subject of careers guidance has been raised in discussions with a number of interested parties including representatives from the careers sector, the Association of School and College Leaders and the Association of Colleges. In addition, a wide range of evidence has been submitted to inform the passage of the Education Bill through Parliament and careers guidance has been the focus of debates on clause 26 and clause 27.

Special Educational Needs

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the merits of developing commissioning guidance for head teachers on support for children with speech, language and communication needs. [64180]

Sarah Teather: The Department has made no such assessment. The special educational needs (SEN) and disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", highlights the importance of joint local commissioning of services for disabled children and those with SEN, with local authorities taking a leading role involving other professionals, including head teachers. Consultation on the Green Paper finished on 30 June and we have invited bids for local areas to run pathfinders to test proposals in the Green Paper. We will consider responses to questions in the Green Paper on local collaboration, the emerging lessons from the pathfinders and the views of SEN organisations before setting out how we will encourage better commissioning for disabled children and those with SEN, including children with speech, language and communication needs.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the special educational needs Green Paper, paragraph 7, page 5, what the evidential basis is for the bias identified by his Department towards inclusion for children with special educational needs. [66768]

Sarah Teather: In developing the Green Paper many parents told us that they do not have a real choice of school, including many parents who want a special school for their child and feel frustrated by not being given their choice by the local authority. By preventing the unnecessary closure of special schools and encouraging the development of the special school sector, through special academies and free schools, the Government will improve parents' choice of school, whether that be for mainstream or special.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure *(a)* consistency of quality and *(b)* affordability of provision for children with (i) special educational needs and (ii) disabilities under his planned system of personal budgets. [66816]

Sarah Teather: Our Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", proposed that all families of children with the proposed "Education, Health and Care Plan" would be able to take up the offer of a personal budget by 2014. On 30 June, we invited bids from local authorities and their partners to become pathfinders. The pathfinders will test a range of proposals set out in the Green Paper, including the option of a personal budget. Pathfinders involved in testing personal budgets will be expected to explore the cost and impact of providing support in this way, so as to ensure that all children with special educational needs or who are disabled continue to receive high quality services, whether or not the family wishes to take up the offer of a personal budget.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice will include a child's right to a named and trained senior person in each school responsible for SEN. [66983]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The current Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice sets out the role of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), who has day-to-day responsibility for the co-ordination of provision made for individual children with SEN and can provide advice to those children. Every local authority maintained mainstream school and every new mainstream academy, following the Academies Act 2010, must appoint a SENCO and that SENCO must be a qualified teacher. The current code points out that many schools find it effective for the SENCO to be a member of the senior leadership team.

In any revision of the code of practice following the SEN and disability Green Paper we will consider whether to say more about the support SENCOs can give to individual children as well as their colleagues in meeting those children's SEN.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to including in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice a *(a)* report for parents to challenge the special educational needs system and *(b)* complaints and appeals process. [67084]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Department has consulted on a special educational needs (SEN) and disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration" which sets out wide-ranging proposals for reform. We aim to give parents more control over the support for their child and family. We are proposing that local authorities and other local services communicate a clear local offer for families to clarify what support is available and from whom; that parents have the option of a personal budget by 2014; parents have access to transparent information about the funding which supports their child's needs; parents have a clear choice of school; and that if local authorities and parents disagree, they always try mediation first, to resolve problems in a less adversarial way than having to take their case to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Special Educational Needs: Dyslexia

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on *(a)* diagnosis of and *(b)* educational support for children with dyslexia in each of the last five years; what information his Department holds on the number of children diagnosed with dyslexia in each of the last five years; what steps he has taken to ensure the accuracy of diagnoses of dyslexia; and if he will make a statement. [66352]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: Data are not collected centrally on spending on diagnosis and support for children with dyslexia or on the number of children with dyslexia. Data are collected on the number of children at School Action Plus under the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice or with statements of special educational needs with specific learning difficulty, which includes dyslexia. In January 2011 there were 78,135 such pupils; 11.1% of the total number of children at School Action Plus and with statements.

Schools and local authorities have statutory duties in respect of identifying and supporting children with special educational needs from within the funds available to them.

The Department is taking a range of specific measures to improve the identification of and support for children with dyslexia. These include:

> making support available to every school for the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics—revising and strengthening the core criteria that define the key features of an effective systematic synthetic phonics programme to help schools in selecting an effective programme and making £3,000 of match funding available to all schools with Key Stage One pupils for phonics materials and training;
>
> introducing a new phonics screening check for children in Year One; working with initial teacher training providers to ensure that all trainee primary teachers have the understanding and confidence to teach children to read using systematic synthetic phonics; funding teachers to take specialist dyslexia training courses approved by the British Dyslexia Association (some 3,200 teachers in the period 2009-11);
>
> developing through the Training and Development Agency for Schools specialist resources for initial teacher training programmes including units on dyslexia to give trainees a grounding in recognising dyslexia and supporting pupils with dyslexia;
>
> developing through the Training and Development Agency for Schools new advanced level online modules in dyslexia which will build on earlier programmes and further enhance teachers' knowledge, understanding and skills; and,
>
> providing grant funding to the Dyslexia-Specific Learning Difficulty Trust in 2011-12 to raise awareness and support parents and schools.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has assessed the role of *(a)* vision control problems and *(b)* eye convergence difficulties in causing reading problems; and if he will make a statement. [66353]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The Department has not conducted an assessment of the role of vision control problems and eye convergence problems in causing reading problems. If teachers suspect that a child may have eyesight difficulties they can discuss those with a child's parents or carers so that they can consider arranging for their child to be seen by an NHS professional such as an optician or general practitioner.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of providing individual pupil funding for children with special educational needs. [61743]

Sarah Teather: On 19 July we launched a consultation on reform to the school funding system, including funding for high needs pupils.

The Green Paper on special educational needs and disability, "Support and aspiration; A new approach to special educational needs and disability", sets out how personal budgets could be used to enhance the control parents have over the support services they receive for their child. We are piloting the personal budget approach to ensure that local authorities properly understand how they and their partners should commission services to ensure all children can access high quality provision, whether or not their parents take up the option of a personal budget. The consultation period ran until 30 June 2011 and we will publish our plans later this year when we have considered the responses received.

Teachers

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools on enterprise teaching. [67269]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not produce guidance on enterprise teaching. Enterprise education is part of the economic well-being strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Pupils are taught what it means to be enterprising; the nature of the world of work; about different types of businesses and how to manage their finances effectively.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is developing online resources for teachers that will enable them to set up school businesses and access support from local enterprise champions.

Teachers: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the viability of higher education institutions of a move to school-based initial teacher training. [56883]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: We have recently published our proposals for the reform of initial teacher training in the discussion document "Training our next generation of outstanding teachers". These proposals are for discussion until 22 July, and we will publish our final policy in September. Our reforms do not signal the end of the involvement of higher education institutions in ITT, and the discussion document sets out the role we see for them in the future of training teachers. As we implement our reforms to ITT, the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the new Teaching Agency will continue to consider the viability of HEIs in implementing changes to the system.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67919]

Mr Paterson: In the past 12 months I have flown on official business by budget airline on seven occasions; four of which were in economy class.

I regularly travel to and from Belfast from the UK mainland. Travel plans can often change at the last minute, for example, to take account of requirements at Westminster. For this reason I normally travel premium economy which allows flights to be changed at no or minimal cost and is therefore most cost effective.

This contrasts with the travel arrangements under the previous administration when the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland routinely used a private jet for official journeys between London and Belfast. Under this Government, the Department no longer uses private jet hire for regular travel by the Secretary of State.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Board of Film Classification: Videos

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to implement recommendation 4 of the Bailey Review relating to the exemption of music videos from statutory regulation by the British Board of Film Classification; and if he will make a statement. [67710]

Mr Vaizey: Work is under way, and a consultation will be published later this year.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67558]

John Penrose: The Department has not spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010.

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66761]

John Penrose: This Department estimates that its carbon dioxide emissions were 220.89 tonnes in June 2010 and 204.61 tonnes in June 2011.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67219]

John Penrose: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 165W.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66575]

John Penrose: In the last 12 months, two memory sticks and one BlackBerry have been lost, and one laptop stolen from this Department. The cost of replacing the lost property was £286.00. The stolen laptop has not been replaced.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many people have been *(a)* recruited to and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010; [66330]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66347]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, this Department has recruited six members of staff, all on fixed term contracts. In the final quarter of 2010-11 the Department ran a voluntary redundancy scheme for all staff under the new Civil Service Compensation Scheme and 44 members of staff have left as at 30 June 2011. The Department has spent £2,891,000 on redundancies since May 2010.

The Department does not hold this information for each arm's length body for which it is responsible and I have asked the chief executive of each one to write directly to my right hon. Friend. Copies of these letters will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Departmental Photographs

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on ministerial photo shoots and videos since May 2010. [67821]

John Penrose *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The Department has spent approximately £1,058 on photo shoots and £2,095 on videos that included covering ministerial engagements and events since May 2010.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67245]

John Penrose: The Department has awarded 127 contracts to small and medium enterprises, since May 2010.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67246]

John Penrose: All of the Department's procurement contracts that are eligible for advertisement have been placed on the Contracts Finder website:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

Departmental Redundancy

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67820]

John Penrose *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* In the final quarter of 2010-11, the Department ran a voluntary redundancy scheme for all staff under the new Civil Service Compensation Scheme, and 44 members of staff have left as at 30 June 2011. The Department has spent £2,891,000 on redundancies since May 2010.

Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65315]

John Penrose: Between 1 March and 1 September 2010, this Department did not introduce any regulations which do not impose costs on businesses.

In the six months after 1 September 2010, the Department introduced one statutory instrument, the Media Ownership (Radio and Cross-media) Order 2011, to remove the local cross media ownership rules the impact of introducing the regulation is net zero cost to business.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65332]

John Penrose: Since 1 September 2010, the Department introduced three statutory instruments which impose costs on business:

1. The Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.
2. The Electronic Communications (Universal Service) (Amendment) Order 2011.
3. The Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011.

The equivalent annual direct impact on business is about £8 million. The annual benefit to business is £0.3 million, but is expected to bring additional non-monetised benefits which are substantially more than the costs.

Since 1 September 2010, the Department has not removed any regulations which impose costs on businesses, nor excluded any regulations from the one-in one-out system because of emergencies or systemic financial risks.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65349]

John Penrose: Between 1 March and 1 September 2010, the Department introduced one statutory instrument:

The Gambling Act 2005 (Operating Licence Conditions) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

which imposed a gross cost on business, but the net overall effect of the regulation was a benefit to business.

Within the same period, the Department did not remove any regulations which imposed costs on businesses.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67209]

John Penrose: The Department works with interested parties, often through formal public consultation and the preparation of an impact assessment, to ensure that guidance is clear, effective and does not impose unnecessary regulatory burdens. Where guidance is produced under statute, the Department follows the relevant statutory provisions. The Department does not hold information on the number of officials involved in the production of such guidance.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67171]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), meets with members of all political parties on a regular basis. To advise on exact numbers of such meetings, would exceed the disproportionate cost limit. The Secretary of State also publishes a list of meetings with external organisations via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website which can be found via the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/other/meetings/

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67194]

John Penrose: The Department has no plans to record these data.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67593]

John Penrose: The Department does not keep a record of meetings declined by its Ministers or departmental officials.

Departmental Training

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what training was provided. [67808]

John Penrose *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The Department has not made any expenditure on training for Ministers in the period since May 2010.

Lotteries: Charities

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has discussed with representatives of operators of charity lotteries their contribution to the big society initiative. [67030]

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with charity lotteries on their potential contribution to enabling communities to provide services and functions under the big society initiative. [67304]

John Penrose: I have not had any specific discussions with operators of charity lotteries about the big society, but I recognise the valuable role that they play in generating income and raising awareness of the contribution of charities towards the big society.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps his Department plans to take to support a more competitive environment for charity lotteries; [67031]

(2) if he will consult on the proposed review of monetary limits imposed upon charity lotteries by the Gambling Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [67033]

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to support a more competitive environment for charity lotteries in the lottery market. [67305]

John Penrose: We are currently considering the recommendations of the Lord Hodgson report 'Unshackling Good Neighbours':

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/unshackling-good-neighbours

to simplify the arrangements for charitable lotteries and raffles, although this does not relate to the monetary limits for different types of lottery. The monetary limits for society lotteries were last increased in 2009, when the proceeds per draw and maximum prize were doubled to the current £4 million and £400,000 limits, and we would certainly want to consider the impact of that change before proposing any further amendments.

Lotteries: Gambling

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet representatives from *(a)* the Lotteries Council, *(b)* the Hospice Lotteries Association and *(c)* the People's Postcode Lottery to discuss the review of monetary limits in the Gambling Act 2005. [67032]

John Penrose: I have recently received representations from the People's Postcode Lottery about the monetary limits in the Gambling Act. I would be happy to meet representatives from the Lotteries Council, the Hospice Lotteries Association and the People's Postcode Lottery to discuss this matter further.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67150]

John Penrose: Officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have frequent discussions with officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Rural Policy Unit, the most recent of which was on 14 July 2011.

Sports: Females

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to increase female participation in *(a)* individual and *(b)* team sports at (i) junior and (ii) senior age ranges. [67127]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England has strategic plans to deliver increased participation among women through the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF) which encourages girls and women to participate in sports. In addition to core National Governing Bodies and National Partner funding, Sport England has invested £10 million in an active women initiative. This funding is aimed at helping women in disadvantaged communities and women caring for children under 16.

Tourism

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the economic state of the tourism sectors in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* England; and what steps he plans to take to assist the tourism industry. [67113]

John Penrose: VisitEngland's United Kingdom Tourism Survey (UKTS) shows the volume and value data for domestic overnight tourism across the nations of the UK in 2010, in the following table:

Destination	*Trips*	*Nights*	*£ million Expenditure*
England	96.377	288.111	16,210
Scotland	12.371	44.556	2,628
Wales	8.688	32.877	1,450
Northern Ireland	2.600	7.777	548
UK total	119.434	373.321	20,935

The confirmed data for inbound tourism will be published by the Office for National Statistics by the end of July.

The 2011 figures up to the end of March for England and Great Britain are available at:

http://www.visitengland.org/Images/March%202011-%20Commentary%20of%20results_tcm30-26862.pdf

Scotland and Wales figures are not yet available, and Northern Ireland no longer participates in the survey.

VisitBritain commissioned a study last year, with each of the individual nations, examining the economic value of tourism. This is available at:

http://www.visitbritain.org/Images/Economic%20case%20for%20the%20Visitor%20Economy%20-%20Phase%202%20-%2026%20july%202010%20-%20FINAL_tcm29-14561.pdf

A £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund has been established for tourism promotion in key markets, as a joint public-private sector initiative. This marketing programme will aim to deliver an additional 4 million visitors to the UK and £2 billion in additional visitor spend over four years. The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Welsh Ministers on *(a)* joint ventures and *(b)* other tourism promotion measures; and if he will make a statement. [67124]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) and his Department's Ministers regularly meet Welsh Ministers to discuss a range of issues.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has established a new £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund which is a joint public-private sector initiative. The marketing programme, which is being led by VisitBritain, aims to deliver an additional 4 million visitors to the UK and £2 billion in additional visitor expenditure over the next four years. The whole of the UK, including Wales, will benefit from the marketing campaign.

The Government's other plans for promoting the growth of the UK's visitor economy are set out in the new Tourism Policy which was published in March 2011 and is available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding he has allocated for the promotion of tourism in *(a)* Yorkshire and *(b)* England in 2011-12. [67288]

John Penrose: The Department sponsors VisitBritain, which is charged with promoting Britain overseas, and VisitEngland, which is responsible for promoting England within the UK and to selected overseas markets. Total grant-in-aid in 2011-12 will be £36.642 million, with £26.98 million allocated to VisitBritain and £9.662 million allocated to VisitEngland. Funding is not apportioned by VisitBritain on a national or regional basis and it is not possible to disaggregate a specific England spend. Funding is not apportioned by VisitEngland on a regional or area-specific basis; it is not possible to disaggregate a specific Yorkshire spend, but the area is an important asset in the overall England offer and receives significant coverage in national marketing campaigns.

UK Film Council

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was *(a)* invested in and *(b)* received as revenue from each profitable film that was (i) wholly and (ii) partly funded by the UK Film Council in each of the last five years. [66728]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* There were no films wholly funded by the UK Film Council (UKFC) in the last five years. There were 33 film production awards made by the UK Film Council where *(a)* the first production award was made between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2011, and *(b)* which has received recoupment income. The recoupment income for the period up to 31 March 2011, for each of these awards, is shown as follows. Additional recoupment is expected over a number of years.

Film	*Production award (£)*	*Recouped to March 2011 (£)*	*Percentage*
A Complete History	236,230	22,871	10
Adulthood	569,999	353,918	62
Brideshead Revisited	1,413,888	20,885	1
Bright Star	564,010	456,493	81
Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff	154,000	8,929	6
Centurion	1,179,553	625,201	53
Donkey Punch (aka Punch)	457,490	58,931	13
Faintheart (My Movie Mashup)	325,000	13,718	4
Fish Tank	644,000	165,741	26
Franklyn	1,080,000	44,755	4
French Film	179,830	46,067	26
Harry Brown	1,002,225	22,300	2
How to Lose Friends and Alienate People	1,471,145	9,977	2
Hush	338,650	67,144	20
Jean Charles	650,000	6,938	1
London to Brighton	184,566	67,639	37
Made in Dagenham	921,119	732,613	80
Magicians	317,500	20,529	6
Man on Wire (aka Reach the Clouds)	385,000	390,081	101
Nightwatching	314,618	62,420	20
Nowhere Boy	1,200,000	1,039,544	87
RAGE	200,000	6,759	3

Film	Production award (£)	Recouped to March 2011 (£)	Percentage
St Trinian's	1,432,000	1,440,017	101
Streetdance	1,003,300	582,493	58
Summer	467,750	11,792	3
The Cottage	770,000	290,947	38
The Deep Blue Sea	1,060,000	47,460	4
The Escapist	779,426	266,307	34
The King's Speech	1,000,000	950,000	95
Tony	150,590	12,540	8
Triangle	1,707,500	179,550	11
Unmade Beds	433,396	19,317	4
White Lightnin'	594,483	72,919	12
Total	21,716.122	8,105,133	37

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Mining

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his counterpart in Colombia on potential levels of population displacement in connection with the proposed development of the La Colosa gold mine in that country. [67474]

Mr Hague: We have not made representations to the Colombian Government on this specific development. I discussed the regulation and environmental impact of mining with the Colombian Foreign Minister on Wednesday 13 July and agreed to continue co-operation to help improve standards in this area.

The key concerns for non-governmental organisations and the Colombian media about the proposed development are over water use and environmental impacts of the operation rather than population displacement. Currently, the development is only in the exploration phase, and the Colombian Government will need to give further approval before mining operations can begin. This will be in line with the new Mining Code which the Colombian Government are currently developing. We will continue following the development of the code to ensure that environmental provisions are robust.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67216]

Mr Jeremy Browne: None.

Cyprus: Press Freedom

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Turkish Cypriot authorities regarding the recent shooting at the offices of the independent Africa newspaper in North Nicosia; and if he will make a statement. [66191]

Mr Lidington: Officials from our high commission in Nicosia have raised their concern on this issue with a number of senior contacts within the Turkish Cypriot community. I was pleased to see that the alleged gunman was swiftly apprehended by the authorities in northern Cyprus and hope that the correct course of justice will now be followed.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Diplomatic Relations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on diplomatic relations with Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [66489]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We enjoy good diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We have an active embassy in Kinshasa which engages regularly with the Government of DRC. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), visited the DRC in July 2010 and has met the DRC Foreign Minister three times in the last 12 months.

We are a major bilateral donor to DRC. The Department for International Development has recently announced an increase in development funding to provide £790 million to the DRC over the next four years.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1029W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67937]

Mr Lidington: In my answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1029W, I referred specifically to three sources of low-carbon energy generation on the FCO UK estate:

(i) Plans to install a tri-generation heat, cooling and power plant in our King Charles street headquarters

(ii) Solar hot water technology at our ICT building at Hanslope park

(iii) A biomass boiler at our Wilton park Executive agency

The tri-generation heat, cooling and power plant project at King Charles street is in the design phase. A decision has not yet been taken on which company will supply the engine for the plant.

The solar hot water technology at Hanslope park was manufactured in Germany.

The biomass boiler at Wilton park was manufactured in Austria.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67579]

Mr Lidington: Ministers and officials receive a large number of invitations and meeting requests from all sources. We do not have a system to record the occasions where requests are declined and we do not consider that such a system would be value for money or worthwhile.

Embassies: St David's Day

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British embassies held St David's day celebrations in each of the last five years; and how many are planning celebrations for St David's day 2012. [67778]

Mr Lidington: The information is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Embassies are free to arrange events to celebrate St David's day at their discretion. Many embassies also mark St David's day by flying the Welsh flag, promoting Wales and St David's day on their websites and attending events organised by local Welsh societies and the Welsh Government.

Eritrea: Religious Freedom

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of religious freedom in Eritrea; and what representations his Department has made to the Eritrean government on freedom of religion. [63477]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are deeply concerned by the restrictions placed on religious freedoms in Eritrea, and the many reports of the detention and inhumane treatment of those belonging to a religion not officially sanctioned by the Eritrean Government. We are also worried by recent reports of an order for all members of the clergy aged under 30 to report for national service.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office raises human rights concerns, including religious freedoms, with the Eritrean Government at every appropriate opportunity, both with the Eritrean embassy in London and with the Government in Asmara. In June this year, Her Majesty's ambassador to Eritrea raised human rights concerns with President Isaias Afwerki. Earlier this month, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) raised human rights, including religious freedom, with senior Eritrea Cabinet Minister Arefaine Berhe. Along with EU partners, the United Kingdom has highlighted to the Eritrean Government their human rights obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Eritrean Government state that the security threat stemming from Ethiopia's non-implementation of the ruling on the countries' shared border obliges Eritrea to suspend many freedoms. We recognise Eritrea's security concerns but firmly reject the notion that this justifies the current severe abuses of human rights.

India: Entry Clearances

Jane Ellison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Indian counterpart on the time taken to issue visas to UK nationals for visits to India. [67964]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have raised our concerns about the impact of Indian immigration rules on British nationals, including those of Pakistani origin and those owning property in India, with the Indian authorities on a number of occasions. Our high commissioner in New Delhi raised a number of visa issues with the Indian Home Secretary in December 2010. In addition, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) raised these issues with the Indian high commissioner in February 2011.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency arrangements are in place for the establishment of a new administration in Libya. [63860]

Alistair Burt: The UK considers the National Transitional Council (NTC) to be the legitimate governing authority in Libya. We welcome efforts made by the NTC to plan for the establishment of a transitional administration for the benefit of all the Libyan people. The NTC's "Road map for Libya" sets out their vision.

A UK-led International Stabilisation Response Team (ISRT) visited Libya in June, to look at how the international community could support the Libyan people in their transition to a peaceful and stable democratic state. The Libya Contact Group in Istanbul on 15 July set out plans for how a better, open and free Libya can be created, how post-Gaddafi stabilisation can be achieved and how the international community can support this Libyan-led process under the overall leadership of the UN. Stabilisation efforts must be owned and led by the Libyan people. We will continue to co-ordinate with our international partners in supporting the Libyan people to build a stable and peaceful society.

Oil: Production

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with other oil-producing countries to increase the production of oil. [65155]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has discussions on a range of issues with counterparts. The Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, discussed oil markets and production during his visit to the Gulf region in May, which included Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Somalia: Piracy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the legal advice he received concerning the use of private security companies on UK commercial shipping off the horn of Africa. [R] [66271]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

The legal issues surrounding the use of private security companies onboard UK commercial vessels are complex and advice is being sought in considering the Government's policy on this issue. However, it is not Government policy to publish internal legal advice.

Sri Lanka

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether *(a)* the British high commissioner and *(b)* official staff of the High Commission met the Secretary of State for Defence during his recent visit to Sri Lanka; [67623]

(2) whether his officials provided briefings or advice to the Secretary of State for Defence prior to his recent visit to Sri Lanka. [67642]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 869W.

UN Environment Programme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on proposals to enhance the status of the UN Environment Programme within the UN. [67384]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK is committed to strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and enhancing the system of international environmental governance. We believe this will require an enhanced role for UNEP as part of a strong environmental pillar within the broader context of strengthening overall sustainable development governance. The UK is engaged in open discussion of broad reform options to make the current system more effective and efficient and will continue to play an active role in preparatory negotiations on this issue in the run up to Rio+20 next June where a major theme is 'the institutional framework for sustainable development'.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what sources of income the Child Support Agency classifies as protected earnings. [66769]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what sources of income the Child Support Agency classifies as protected earnings. [66769]

Following contact with your office we clarified that the question refers to 'protected income', the element of the child maintenance formula which determines the amount of child maintenance liability, as opposed to 'protected earnings' which is the amount which cannot be taken from an employed non-resident parent's wages when he or she is subject to a Deduction from Earnings Order.

The types of income that are not taken into account in the child maintenance formula are detailed in child support regulations (Schedule 2 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations 1992). In summary these are:

Business expenses which are wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in the day to day performance of employment duties;

Any compensation for personal injury and any payments from a trust fund set up for that purpose; Housing benefit; council tax benefit; disability living allowance (or a motability supplement); attendance allowance (or constant attendance allowance or exceptionally severe disablement allowance paid because of industrial injury or war injury); social fund payments; guardian's allowance and Christmas bonus. In addition to this payments made to compensate for the loss of a benefit are also disregarded in full; and

Certain benefits which are ignored in part, for the 1993 scheme £10 per week of war disablement pension, war widow's or war widower's pension or payments made to a parent under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme is disregarded. Only a total of £20 a week in total can be disregarded from a combination of war pensions, charitable contributions and student income. This is consistent with the treatment of these pensions for means tested benefits, for which a weekly £10 disregard also applies. Certain supplementary allowances paid within the overall award of the War Disablement Pension are also not included as assessable income. These include a payment based on the need for attendance which is paid as part of a war disablement pension and "adult or child dependency allowance" within the War Disablement Pension. These are excluded from assessable income, provided that the allowance is paid directly to the parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Absent Parents

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Support Agency has to pursue self-employed absent parents *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of such powers. [67604]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what powers the Child Support Agency has to pursue self-employed absent parents (a) in and (b) outside the UK; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of such powers. [67604]

The Commission has jurisdiction to make a maintenance calculation and collect child support maintenance only when the parent with care, the non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the UK. Habitual residence is a legal concept which means more than simply 'where you live'. A person can habitually reside in more than one country or in none. Habitual residence can continue during an absence from UK.

The Commission retains the power to pursue a self-employed non-resident parent that lives in the UK; or who has moved overseas, for ongoing maintenance payments, but only where the non-resident parent in question is regarded as being habitually resident in the UK. The criteria for establishing jurisdiction when a non-resident parent leaves the UK is described at Section 44 of the Child Support Act 1991. There is no distinction made between an EU state and a non-EU state.

If the non-resident parent ceases to be habitually resident, the Commission can no longer seek ongoing maintenance. We can only enforce child maintenance arrears directly if the self-employed non-resident parent holds assets within the UK, such as savings or property, which would fall within the jurisdiction of the UK courts. Since 3 August 2009, the Commission has had the power to make deductions from current or savings accounts held within the UK without the consent of the non-resident parent.

The Commission may take action to prevent the non-resident parent disposing of his assets, from which the Commission could recover the arrears. The Commission may apply to the High Court (England and Wales) or the Court of Session (Scotland) If a non-resident parent has arrears of child support; and have disposed of, or is about to dispose of, assets with the intention of avoiding child support.

From 18 June 2011, the Commission will have some ability under the new European legislation EC 04/2009 to enforce certain arrears of maintenance that accrued while both parents were resident in the UK where the non-resident parent now resides in another jurisdiction within the European Union. It can also assist parents with care in the process of obtaining a court order for ongoing maintenance which can then be enforced via an application to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (REMO) unit at the Office of the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee in England and Wales, and via an equivalent legal mechanism in Scotland. The new European legislation also allows the Commission to make enquiries about assets a non-resident parent may own in another EU member state for the purposes of enforcing child maintenance arrears owed in the UK.

The government recognises that it can be difficult to secure child maintenance in circumstances where the non-resident parent is self-employed and will not willingly accept financial responsibility for their child. Supporting their, children is something parents should manage for themselves and we are taking steps to support them in doing so. However, for the limited number of cases where this proves impossible, we have plans to introduce a new, more automated system for managing child maintenance cases which should make enforcement action quicker and more effective, including against the self-employed.

The Commission has not made any formal assessment of the full effectiveness of the powers that will be deployed to secure maintenance on the future scheme, as some of these are fairly new and others are yet to be commenced.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Support Agency has to verify the income of self-employed absent parents. [67605]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what powers the Child Support Agency has to verify the income of self-employed absent parents. [67605]

Self-employed earnings are usually taken from the self-assessment return that is submitted to HM Revenue and Customs, or from a tax calculation notice. This is consistent with the policy that, in a similar manner as for employed earners, the basis of the child maintenance liability of a self-employed earner is their taxable earnings.

The Commission also has the power to request details of, and statements from, any accounts held by deposit takers in the name of the non-resident parent, including bank and building society accounts. If the requested information is not supplied, attempts will be made to obtain the information through phone calls, accountants, companies or partnerships with or for whom the non-resident parent works, a face-to-face interview, an inspector's visit, or a request to HM Revenue and Customs for self-assessment details where all other means to obtain the information have failed.

If a non-resident parent fails to provide this information they may have both a default maintenance decision (that sets a default level of child maintenance that they must pay) and a fine imposed. Any information obtained in relation to a non-compliant non-resident parent's finances through our information gathering powers can be used for enforcement purposes if necessary. If, at any stage, a parent with care believes that the Commission ought to make more enquiries, they can ask that it do so, although some evidence about the matter they feel needs investigating is often required.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes, March 2011, if he will apply the same methodology as was used to estimate the number of effective family-based arrangements after contact between a parent and Options to estimate the number of cases in which users of Options neither applied to the Child Support Agency nor made effective family-based arrangements after contacting Options. [66413]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes March 2011 if he will apply the same methodology as was used to estimate the number of effective family-based arrangements after contact between a parent and Options to estimate the number of cases in which users of Options neither applied to the Child Support Agency nor made effective family-based arrangements after contacting Options. [66413]

An estimated 143,000 (33 per cent) out of a total of 436,000 users of Child Maintenance Options up to end March 2011 had neither applied to the Child Support Agency nor made effective family-based arrangements after contacting the service.

These figures are taken from the Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes March 2011. Full details of the survey are available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/research.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average cost per case and *(b)* total cost was of enforcement action used by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by means of (i) deduction from earnings orders, (ii) deduction orders, (iii) liability orders, (iv) distress actions, (v) charging for payments orders (Scotland), (vi) charging orders (England and Wales), (vii) orders for sale (England and Wales), (viii) bill of inhibition (Scotland), (ix) committal and (x) recovery from a deceased's estate in the last 12 months. [66414]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the (a) average cost per case and (b) total amount spent was of enforcement action used by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by means of (i) deduction from earnings orders (ii) deduction orders (iii) liability orders (iv) distress actions (v) charging for payments orders (Scotland) (vi) charging orders (England and Wales) (vii) orders for sale (England and Wales) (viii) bill of inhibition (Scotland) (ix) committal and (x) recovery from a deceased's estate in the last 12 months. [66414]

The average cost per case handled by the Commission's legal enforcement teams in the financial year to 31 March 2011 was £1,539. The total expenditure was £62,740,826. It is not possible to break this down over the requested categories, since costs are assigned to cost centres and cost types rather than specific activities. However it is possible, as shown in the table below, to provide this cost broken down by work area.

Enforcement action	*Cost (£)*
Internal costs (People/premises, IT, etc.)	54,320,225
Bailiffs England and Wales	656,428
Legal costs England and Wales	3,065,330
Tracing costs (HMRC)	1,864,433
Debt collection agencies	1,219,691
Legal costs Scotland	1,614,718
Total	62,740,826

A further breakdown of the Commission enforcement activity can be found on page 24 of the Commission's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest version of the QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0311.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes, March 2011, if he will apply the same methodology as was used to estimate the number of children benefiting from effective family-based maintenance arrangements after contact between a parent and Options to estimate the number of children in respect of whom users of Options chose after discussion with the Options Service to go to the Child Support Agency seeking to make child maintenance arrangements. [66415]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes March 2011 if he will apply the same methodology as was used to estimate the number of children benefiting from effective family-based maintenance arrangements after contact between a parent and Options to estimate the number of children in respect of whom users of Options chose after discussion with the Options Service to go to the Child Support Agency seeking to make child maintenance arrangements. [66415]

A total of 97,000 applications, covering 149,000 children, were made to the CSA following contact with Child Maintenance Options up to the end of March 2011.

These figures are taken from the Commission's Survey of Child Maintenance Options Outcomes March 2011. Full details of the survey are available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/research.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the statement on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission website that Child Maintenance Options helps over 100,000 children to benefit from family-based maintenance, what analysis the Commission has undertaken on the causal impact of contact with the Options service as a determining factor in the maintenance arrangements parents subsequently make, including the type of arrangement compared to other factors which could have influenced their decision, including *(a)* the quality of relationship between the parents, *(b)* their emotions, attitudes and beliefs and *(c)* affordability. [66416]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the statement on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission website that Child Maintenance Options helps over 100,000 children to benefit from family-based maintenance what analysis the Commission has undertaken on the causal impact of contact with the Options service as a determining factor in the maintenance arrangements parents subsequently make including the type of arrangement compared to other factors which could have influenced their decision including (a) the quality of relationship between the parents (b) their emotions attitudes and beliefs and (c) affordability. [66416]

The Commission has undertaken an evaluation of the Child Maintenance Options service to assess the extent to which parents made a child maintenance arrangement following contact with the helpline element of the service.

It was not possible to use the standard method to measure the impact of the Options service, as a control group of non-users could not be identified. Instead, the research measured the "effect" of the service by comparing Jobcentre Plus callers with moderate to high use of the Options service with low users—the latter being a proxy for a standard non-user comparison group. (It was not possible to look at the "effect" of CM Options on non-Jobcentre Plus callers as too few of this group were low users of the service and therefore it was not possible to generate a credible comparison group). The two groups were matched on a wide range of factors known to predict maintenance outcomes, the only differences being the level of contact with Child Maintenance Options. Therefore any differences in outcomes between the two groups would be due to the level of interaction with the Child Maintenance Options service.

The research found that around 7% of parents referred from Jobcentre Plus who had a 'moderate to high' level of interaction with the service had a maintenance arrangement in place eight or nine months after contact with the service that they would otherwise not have had. The effect of the service is not minor considering the low intensity of intervention, with most parents having just one or two short telephone calls.

It is not easy to capture emotions, attitudes and beliefs in a quantitative study of this nature, however, we believe the large number of topic areas used in the matching process will have captured this as far as is possible. The report is available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/research.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to section 20 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, what progress he has made in carrying out a pilot using deduction from earnings orders as the first means of collecting child maintenance; and whether a full programme of evaluation and impact assessment of such orders has been undertaken; [66417]

(2) what plans he has to implement section 20 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 to allow use of deduction from earnings orders as a basic method of collection of child maintenance. [66418]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to Section 20 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 what progress he has made in carrying out a pilot using deduction from earnings orders as the first means of collecting child maintenance; and whether a full programme of evaluation and impact assessment of such orders has been undertaken. [66417]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to implement section 20 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 to allow use of deduction from earnings orders as a basic method of collection of child maintenance. [66418]

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.2) Regulations 2008 introduced Deduction from Earnings Orders (DEO) as a basic means of payment of child maintenance from 27 October 2008. No piloting activity was undertaken prior to the introduction of the DEO as a standard method of payment.

Section 20 of the 2008 Act was commenced for the purposes of making regulations on 26 September 2008 and for all other purposes on 27 October 2008.

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.2) Regulations 2008 were made consequent to the commencement of section 20 of the 2008 Act. The 2008 Regulations included DEO as a standard method of payment of child maintenance, alongside Direct Debits.

Provision is also made for a non-resident parent to make representations that there is a good reason why they should not pay via DEO. These must be considered by the Agency prior to the imposition of a DEO. The 2008 Regulations further provide that non-resident parents have a right to appeal to a court against the imposition of a DEO.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency classifies a war disablement pension as assessable income in calculating child maintenance liability. [66770]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the Child Support Agency classifies a war disablement pension as assessable income in calculating child maintenance liability. [66770]

The treatment of War Disablement Pensions differs for child maintenance purposes between the two statutory schemes.

Under the 1993 child maintenance scheme the Commission includes a War Disablement Pension within a parent's assessable income as prescribed in child support law, which establishes that £10 of any War Disablement Pension is disregarded when calculating the assessable income of a parent. A non-resident parent that is in receipt of a War Disablement Pension will not be required to pay child maintenance if they have been assessed under the child support formula as having to pay £6.50 or less per week.

Under the 2003 child maintenance scheme, if the non-resident parent is in receipt of a War Disablement Pension the Commission applies the flat rate of £5, when determining the child maintenance calculation, as prescribed in child support law.

If a parent believes there are special circumstances that have not been captured within the standard maintenance calculation then they can apply for a variation. An application for a variation may be applied for on a number of different grounds by either the parent with care or the non-resident parent.

One of the grounds for a variation is where the non-resident parent has income which has not been taken into account within the standard child maintenance calculation. This may apply where the non-resident parent is at the flat-rate, including cases where this is as a result of them being in receipt of a War Disablement Pension. The parent with care may apply for a variation if they believe that the non-resident parent has an income of at least £100 a week which would otherwise be taken into account for the calculation of maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many child maintenance agreements have been enforced by the Child Support Agency through deduction of earnings orders in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [66772]

(2) how many deduction of earnings orders administered by the Child Support Agency were made *(a)* at the request of the non-resident parent and *(b)* after legal proceedings in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [66773]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child maintenance agreements have been enforced by the Child Support Agency through deduction of earnings orders in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [66772]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many deduction of earnings orders administered by the Child Support Agency were made (a) at the request of the non-resident parent and (b) after legal proceedings in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [66773]

The number of active Deduction from Earnings Orders / Requests (DEO/R) and the number in which maintenance was received in the quarter are shown in the table below. A Deduction from Earnings Request (DER) is a request for maintenance where the non-resident parent is in the armed forces. Figures only include cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer and exclude cases administered off the main computer system.

The figures include cases where the preferred method of collection recorded on each case at the end of the quarter is DEO/R. Figures may therefore include cases where maintenance was requested and/or received by other methods during the quarter but where the method of collection was recorded as DEO/R at the end of the quarter. No management information exists on which DEO/Rs were enforced and which were set up at the request of the non resident parent.

Quarter ending March each year	*Maintenance requested*	*Maintenance received*
2007	143,800	110,500
2008	153,900	116,400
2009	148,400	116,400
2010	140,900	115,000
2011	140,100	113,500

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest 100.
2. Figures exclude cases administered off system.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deduction of earnings orders will be kept in place *(a)* during the migration of cases to the new child maintenance system and *(b)* until parents are able to make a private agreement; and if he will make a statement. [66774]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many deduction of earnings orders will be kept in place (a) during the migration of cases to the new child maintenance system and (b) until parents are able to make a private agreement; and if he will make a statement. [66774]

The process underpinning the closure of cases on the existing statutory maintenance schemes, and the movement of those cases to either a family based arrangement or application to the future statutory scheme has yet to be finalised (this includes the status of any deduction from earnings orders currently in place).

The Government intends to draft Regulations and consult publicly on the details of the existing scheme case closure process later in the year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Business Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65309]

Chris Grayling: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010 the Department introduced 33 sets of regulations that did not impose costs on business; and 14 such sets of regulations in the six months after 1 September 2010.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010. [65326]

Chris Grayling: Since 1 September 2010 the Department has introduced one set of regulations that imposes costs on business and removed one such set of regulations. The net effect is a reduction of costs on business.

The Department has not excluded any regulations from the one-in one-out system because they address emergencies or systemic financial risks.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65342]

Chris Grayling: In the six months prior to 1 September 2010 the Department introduced five sets of regulations that impose costs on business, and removed none. However, the Department also amended regulation to reduce costs to business; the net effect is a reduction of costs on business.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reliability of the assessment procedures to be used in his proposed reform of disability living allowance. [67958]

Maria Miller: The purpose of the assessment we are developing for personal independence payment is to assess entitlement for the benefit in a way that is objective, evidence-based, transparent and, importantly, consistent. We are still in the process of developing the details of the assessment and in May published an initial draft of proposals for the assessment criteria. We are currently carrying out an informal consultation on the criteria, to hear the views of disabled people and their organisations on how they will work and how they might be improved. We are also testing them, by carrying out around 1,000 sample assessments over the summer. The testing will help us to better understand the likely impact of the criteria. We intend to publish a second draft of the assessment criteria in the autumn, following consideration of the consultation findings and testing results.

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues on the backdating of disability living allowance claims; and whether any review of such guidelines is planned. [67959]

Maria Miller: There can be no entitlement to disability living allowance before a claim is made, or treated as made. A claim may be treated as made earlier in certain circumstances where a request has previously been made for a claim form, or the initial contact was defective as a claim to benefit. These exceptions are explained in published guidance.

There are no plans to review guidelines relating to how claims are backdated in DLA.

Remploy: Advertising

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the board of Remploy did not undertake a consultation before advertising for a paid non-executive director; and if he will make a statement. [66491]

Maria Miller: No consultation is required to appoint a non-executive director to the board of Remploy. This is a ministerial appointment and is currently being advertised by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Remploy: Allowances

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish a list of expenses claimed by Remploy directors in the last financial year by *(a)* director and *(b)* type of expense; and what the cost of travel by senior managers at M1 grade and above was in that financial year. [65021]

Maria Miller: A detailed list of expenses claimed by Remploy directors on a quarterly basis from April 2009 is available on Remploy's website

http://www.remploy.co.uk/about-us/corporategovernance.ashx

This shows that Remploy's eight directors spent £34,000 on expenses in the financial year to March 2011, a fall of £11,400 (25%) on the previous year.

The cost of travel by Remploy's 148 senior managers at M1 grade and above, including directors, was £1,120,000 for the financial year ending March 2011.

Remploy operates over 100 different locations and many business streams including a mobile sales task force—to ensure that these operate effectively employees are required to travel to customers, suppliers and the Remploy locations. Remploy continues to push web conferencing to avoid unnecessary travel and has benchmarked its arrangements with hotel providers. In addition no one in Remploy travels first class.

The Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, need to show financial restraint in the current economic climate and scrutinise all spending to ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

Social Security Benefits

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from which locations welfare and employment benefits are *(a)* administered and *(b)* processed by his Department. [66797]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus has 740 offices that are open to the public, 75 main benefit delivery centres and 37 contact centres. Their locations can be found within the respective tables that have been drawn up for each. The administration and processing of welfare and unemployment benefits will be undertaken at each of the locations to varying degrees.

Table 1:

Location of all Jobcentres that are open to the public as of 20 July 2011.

Table 2:

Locations of Jobcentre Plus Main Benefit Delivery Centres as of 20 July 2011.

Table 3:

Locations of Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres as of 20 July 2011.

Table 4:

Locations of DWP Pension Centres and their Respective Functions as of 20 July 2011.

Table 5:

Locations of DWP Disability and Carers Units and their Respective Functions as of 20 July 2011.

The information in all of the tables above has been placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to address monopolies in agricultural markets. [66496]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Competition matters relating to agricultural markets fall to the Office of Fair Trading to investigate and address.

Agriculture: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on wage levels in farming communities. [66362]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Minsters have had no direct discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer concerning wage levels in farming communities. However, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) run by the Office for National Statistics provides data on wage levels in agriculture and allows direct comparison with other sectors.

Agriculture: Young People

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to increase the number of young people pursuing a career in agriculture. [66104]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's first priority in its business plan is to help improve the competitiveness of British farming which will make it a more rewarding career prospect.

We support and encourage the activities of the Agri-Skills Forum

http://www.agriskillsforum.co.uk/

whose remit is to raise skill levels and improve the professionalism of the industry, making it more attractive to young people.

In addition we are working with both the industry and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help increase the uptake of apprenticeships by farmers to encourage young people into farming careers.

Animal Welfare: Charities

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings she has had with animal welfare charities since her appointment; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [63975]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State and her ministerial team have had a number of meetings with animal welfare charities including the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Blue Cross Animal Hospital, Dogs Trust, Animal Defenders International, Captive Animals' Protection Society, Kennel Club and Born Free. These meetings have been part of a programme of stakeholder engagement to discuss a wide variety of current issues.

Animal Welfare: Slaughterhouses

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the export via UK ports of live animals for slaughter and fattening. [66450]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to improving the welfare of animals. If animals are exported live, their transportation should be high quality and comply with welfare in transport rules.

The live export trade is a lawful trade. The Government cannot unilaterally ban the trade as it would contravene EU free trade rules. Nevertheless, we would prefer livestock to be slaughtered as close as practicable to their point of production; a trade in meat and meat products being preferable to the long distance transport of livestock to slaughter.

We will continue to ensure that the current rules on long journeys (e.g. rest periods, adequate access to water and feed) are properly enforced in this country.

We will be making our views clear in Brussels on the importance we attach to animal welfare. We will play a full part in updating of the European law on welfare in transport and will continue to work with welfare, industry and enforcement organisations to identify where improvements might be made.

Badgers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the size of the badger population in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [66378]

Mr Paice: Based on national population surveys of badger social groups carried out in the 1980s and 1990s, there are estimated to be between 250,000 and 300,000 badgers in Great Britain. No data are available for individual local authority areas.

Biotechnology

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote innovation in the biotechnology sector for the purposes of enhancing food security. [66103]

Mr Paice: The Government invest about £400 million per annum on agriculture and food research, including up to £90 million over five years through the Technology Strategy Board's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Platform (co-funded by DEFRA and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council), which provides a key mechanism for driving industry-led innovation to stimulate the development of new technologies to support a competitive, environmentally sustainable farming and resilient food sector.

Government funders, industry and third sector bodies are working together through the Government's Chief Scientist Food Research Partnership and the Global Food Security programme to ensure that multi-disciplinary research is robust relevant and providing good value for money.

DEFRA is also funding collaborative research and development and innovation activities to promote a more sustainable, resilient and competitive food chain.

To strengthen agricultural research and innovation, the Government are actively building links and joint initiatives, for example through membership of the EU Joint Programming initiative which aims to maximise member state benefit from R&D funding, and the

Global Research Alliance which aims to find ways of reducing greenhouse gas through international collaboration.

The Government also recognise that GM technology could deliver benefits providing it is used safely and responsibly, in particular as one of a range of tools to address the longer term challenges of global food security, climate change, and the need for more sustainable agricultural production.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of incidents of bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* each local authority area in England and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in England in each of the last five years. [66379]

Mr Paice: We are not able to provide figures by local authority area and parliamentary constituency, as figures are not broken down by these areas. TB statistics covering the last five years and including new herd incidents and numbers of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures are given by county on the DEFRA website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/stats/county.htm

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the cattle slaughtered during *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 as a result of bovine tuberculosis testing subsequently proved to be negative for the disease. [64482]

Mr Paice: Number of cattle slaughtered as skin and interferon gamma test TB reactors in England:

2009: 24,500

2010: 24,213.

All TB reactors are regarded as infected and European and national legislation require all such animals to be slaughtered. Those cattle are then subject to post mortem examination and a proportion of them will also be sampled for laboratory culture, but this is not to prove or disprove the disease status of the animal. The primary purpose of post mortem and bacteriological culture of TB test reactors is to assess the severity of infection and identify the strain of the causative bacterium—this is useful for epidemiological investigations and helps to support subsequent outbreak control efforts. TB is a chronic and insidious infectious disease with potentially long incubation periods. In the early stages of this disease it is often not possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and due to the fastidious nature of the TB bacterium (which may be present in low numbers in the affected organs) it is not always possible to culture it from tissue samples. It is therefore wrong to consider all TB reactors that fail to disclose evidence of infection in the slaughterhouse or in the laboratory as being 'false positives' or 'negative for the disease'.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of scientific advice on the effectiveness of a badger cull in reducing rates of bovine tuberculosis in England. [66361]

Mr Paice: The results of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) showed that badger culling, when done on a sufficient scale in a widespread, co-ordinated and efficient way, and over a sustained period of time, would reduce the incidence of bovine TB in cattle in high incidence areas.

The evidence base on the effects of culling badgers on TB incidence in cattle was recently assessed at a meeting between DEFRA's chief scientific adviser, chief veterinary officer and a panel of independent experts. The key conclusions from this meeting, which includes the most up to date results of the ongoing post-RBCT analysis were recently published on the DEFRA website at

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/documents/bovinetb-scientificexperts-110404.pdf

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date she expects the oral vaccine against tuberculosis in badgers to be available; and if she will make a statement. [67019]

Mr Paice: An oral badger vaccine is in development but is still many years away. It is therefore not possible to say with any certainty if and when an oral badger vaccine might be available for use in the field.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support her Department plans to provide towards research and development of vaccines against tuberculosis in *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle in each of the next four financial years. [66376]

Mr Paice: Over the next four years there is a suite of research projects under way with many reaching their specified conclusion date in 2014-15. We are currently considering options for the scale and nature of successor projects, and accordingly the figures set out below reflect the costs associated with projects currently under way.

		£ million
	Badger vaccines	*Cattle vaccine and associated diagnostics:*
2011-12	2.60	2.14
2012-13	2.02	2.46
2013-14	2.71	2.51
2014-15	0.11	2.16

Further projects may also be commissioned which could alter these estimated amounts, especially in the later years.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support her Department has provided for research and development of vaccines against tuberculosis in *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle in each of the last five financial years. [66377]

Mr Paice: Over the last five years, DEFRA has spent the below amounts on cattle and badger vaccines research and development:

		£ million
	Cattle vaccine and associated diagnostics	*Badger vaccines (including injectable and oral vaccines)*
2010-11	2.70	2.78
2009-10	3.70	3.14
2008-09	3.20	2.18
2007-08	3.70	2.50
2006-07	3.18	2.41

Carbon Emissions: Business

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W, when she plans to announce her decision on whether to introduce the mandatory reporting of carbon dioxide emissions by UK listed companies; and if she will make a statement. [65730]

Mr Paice: We will announce a decision on the corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions in the autumn.

Carbon Emissions: Cattle

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department is supporting on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cattle. [64368]

Mr Paice: The Government, in partnership with the devolved Administrations, have invested £12.6 million over a four and half year period to improve the Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Inventory R and D Platform. Through a series of projects, including improving the accuracy of calculating greenhouse gas emissions produced from cattle, this research will strengthen our understanding of emissions produced on farm and better capture the positive actions that farmers are currently taking.

DEFRA has recently supported research at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) and Reading University on nutritional interventions to reduce methane emissions from cattle (Projects LS3656 and AC0209). This showed that feeding:

high-sugar grass could reduce an animal's methane emissions by 20%;

crushed rapeseed could reduce methane production per dairy cow by 15% and methane per litre of milk by 20%.

The research also suggests farmers can reduce GHGs by increasing milk yield, avoiding overfeeding animals with food high in nitrogen, feeding animals once a day and increasing dietary starch and oil.

In partnership with industry, DEFRA is funding research (Projects LK686 and LK687) on genetic improvement of perennial ryegrass and red/white clover to increase nitrogen-use efficiency in the rumen and reduce N-losses from pastures and silo.

Crops: Droughts

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes to develop drought-resistant or tolerant crops are being funded by her Department. [66240]

Mr Paice: DEFRA funds research on the impact of water shortages on farming through the Farming and Food Science Sustainable Water Management R and D programme, which includes research and development to develop crop varieties with improved water-use efficiency. These projects are shown in the following table.

DEFRA also funds broader Crop Genetic Improvement Networks (on cereals, oilseed rape, pulses, vegetables, grasses, biomass crops) which deliver tools and knowledge to underpin plant breeding and the development of varieties with improved performance such as efficient use of water and nutrients.

Project code	*End date*	*Title*
AC0314	30 April 2013	Identification of important crop traits for adaptation to climate change
HL0187LFV	31 March 2012	Improving water use efficiency and fruit quality in field grown strawberry
WU0106	30 June 2011	Generic approaches to increasing water use efficiency (WUE) in crops by enhancing abscisic acid biosynthesis
WU0107	31 March 2012	Determination of the response of strawberry to water-limited conditions, identification of quantitative trait loci (QTL) and development of molecular markers
WU0115	31 March 2014	Genomics tools for pre-selection of water-use efficiency in top fruit rootstocks
WU0121	31 March 2012	An Integrated Approach to Increasing Water Use Efficiency and Drought Tolerance of Wheat Production in UK
IF0145	31 March 2013	Understanding and dissecting the genetic control of key "environmental impact" traits in forage grasses and legumes
LK0688	31 March 2013	Development of productive and persistent high quality forage grasses and white clover with increased water-use-efficiency and resilience to summer droughts
IF0142	30 September 2011	Sequencing the gene space of potato chromosome IV, comparative analysis with tomato and development of a gene based mapping platform (contribution to a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council project-funding of SCRI component)
IF0157	31 March 2012	Leafy Vegetable Genetic Improvement Network (VeGIN 1): Pre-breeding research to support sustainable farming of leafy vegetables and salads
IFO158	31 March 2012	Vegetable Genetic Improvement Network (VeGIN 2): Pre-breeding research to support sustainable farming of carrot and onion
IF0146	30 November 2013	The Wheat Genetic Improvement Network (WGIN) - Improving the environmental footprint of farming through crop genetics and targeted traits analysis
IF0147	31 January 2014	DEFRA Pulse Crop Genetic Improvement Network

Project code	*End date*	*Title*
IF0144	31 March 2013	OREGIN - Pre-breeding research to support climate change adaptation and reduction of the environmental footprint of oilseed rape
LK09129	15 September 2014	Exploiting novel genes to improve resource use efficiency in wheat

Dairy Farming

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the dairy sector of the implementation of the provisions of the draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill. [67499]

Mr Paice: The Groceries Code Adjudicator will monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP). This Code covers relationships between direct suppliers to retailers and their customers. Therefore, in the dairy sector we expect that the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill will ensure fair relationships and greater certainty for processors of raw milk.

Although the GSCOP does not apply to indirect suppliers and will not normally provide for the relationship between dairy farmers and processors, the Adjudicator will be able to receive complaints from indirect suppliers. This will allow concerns from milk producers to be investigated where the Adjudicator sees potential breaches of the Code which affect dairy farmers.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60335]

Mr Paice: The Department made the following 31 statutory instruments between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011:

1. The Poultry Health Scheme (Fees) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1194)
2. The Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1135)
3. The Veterinary Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1116)
4. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/988)
5. The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/981)
6. The Marine Licensing (Notice Appeals) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/936)
7. The Marine Licensing (Licence Application Appeals) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/934)
8. The British Waterways Board (Kennet and Avon Canal) (Reclassification) Order 2011 (SI 2011/889)
9. The Animal By-products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/881)
10. The Sea Fishing (Penalty Notices) (England) Order 2011 (SI 2011/758)
11. The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/735)
12. The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/715)
13. The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (England) Order 2011 (SI 2011/714)
14. The Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/697)
15. The Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/696)
16. The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/695)
17. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011 (SI 2011/694)
18. The Marine Licensing (Delegation of Functions) Order 2011 (SI 2011/627)
19. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/625)
20. The Marine and Costal Access Act 2009 (Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2011 (SI 2011/603)
21. The Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/564)
22. The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/464)
23. The Seed Marketing Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/463)
24. The Bovine Semen (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/454)
25. The Poultrymeat (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/452)
26. The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2001/451)
27. The Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/424)
28. The Petroleum Act 1998 (Specified Pipelines) Order 2011 (SI 2011/423)
29. The Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order 2011 (SI 2011/409)
30. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/405)
31. The Inshore Fisheries and Conservation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2011 (SI 2011/177)

Information on the equivalent annual net cost to business of domestic regulations introduced between 1 January and 30 June 2011 was published in the Government's "One-in, One-out: Statement of New Regulation" published in April 2011 and which is available to view at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/o/11-p96a-one-in-one-out-new-regulation.pdf

The overall effect of DEFRA regulations was an equivalent annual net saving to business of £28,000.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulations (1) her Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65310]

(2) that impose costs on businesses her Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65327]

(3) that impose costs on businesses her Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65343]

Mr Paice: The one-in, one-out regulatory management system, although announced in September, did not come into force till January 2011.

DEFRA does not hold information on the net cost to business of regulations introduced or removed prior to 1 September 2010. Such information was not collected routinely at that time and the cost of compiling it would be disproportionate.

A list of regulatory measures introduced or removed in the first half of 2011 can be found in the Statement of New Regulation in the Libraries of the House.

There have been no DEFRA regulations excluded from the one-in, one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010.

In the six months after 1 September 2010, the following five regulations were introduced which do not impose costs on businesses:

1. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2011 (SI 2011/95)

2. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011 (SI 2011/694)

3. The Sea Fishing (Penalty Notices) (England) Order 2011 (SI 2011/758)

4. The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/464)

5. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 4) Order 2011.

Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of molosser dogs in the UK. [64642]

Mr Paice: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

EU Grants and Loans

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with the European Commission on the matching criteria for Leader funding. [67279]

Mr Paice: Officials have had discussions in the European Commission's Rural Development Committee on revised guidance on the management of the Leader approach, which includes some potential simplifications. There have been no specific discussions on match funding. Officials are now assessing the implications of the proposed changes to the guidance and will be discussing these with local action groups.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements her Department has in place for the transition of Leader funding applications from regional development agencies to her Department from 1 July 2011. [67291]

Mr Paice: Management of the Leader approach and the ongoing Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) delivery functions transferred from the regional development agencies to DEFRA on 1 July. DEFRA RDPE delivery teams are in touch with local action groups to ensure a smooth transition to the new delivery arrangements that minimises disruption to customers and maintains the momentum of expenditure to improve agricultural competitiveness and support rural businesses and rural communities.

Food Supply

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings she has had with ministerial colleagues to discuss threats to UK food security. [66106]

Mr Paice: In working towards our commitment to address the issue of food security, DEFRA's ministerial team have taken many opportunities to raise our food security agenda with ministerial colleagues. We discuss this issue at Cabinet and other regular ministerial meetings.

DEFRA officials also regularly discuss food security and specific issues with their counterparts in other Government Departments.

Food: Exports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her international counterparts on the elimination of export bans of foodstuffs. [63806]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 44WS, by the Secretary of State about the recent meeting of G20 agricultural Ministers.

Forestry Commission: Manpower

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Forestry Commission staff at each payband work in its offices at *(a)* Coleford, *(b)* Mamhead, *(c)* Wendover, *(d)* Bedgebury, *(e)* Sherwood, *(f)* Market Rasen, *(g)* Tangham, *(h)* Fineshade, *(i)* Rothbury, *(j)* Hamsterley, *(k)* Wheldrake, *(l)* Peil Wyke, *(m)* Delamere, *(n)* Ludlow, *(o)* Clifton Moor, *(p)* Dunsop Bridge, *(q)* Bourne Wood, *(r)* Silverstone, *(s)* Bentley and *(t)* Bellever. [67212]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 20 July 2011]:* The following table gives details by pay band of staff who are employed by Forestry Commission England and are based at each of the office locations listed. Many staff spend a considerable amount of their time away from these bases on operational activities, however, for example looking after the public forest estate or delivering Forestry Commission England's grants and regulatory activities.

	Forestry commission pay band									
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*5(op)*	*6a*	*6a(op)*	*6b*	*7*
Location										
Coleford	1	0	1	6	5	10	3	7	21	1
Mamhead	0	1	1	1	4	6	0	0	10	0
Wendover	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	6	0
Bedgebury	0	0	1	5	3	6	5	3	19	0
Sherwood	0	2	2	4	5	7	6	10	16	3
Market Rasen	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	2	0
Tangham	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	3	0
Fineshade	0	0	0	1	3	5	2	3	7	3
Rothbury	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	1	5	1
Hamsterley	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	6	2
Wheldrake	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Peil Wyke	0	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	9	0
Delamere	0	0	1	2	1	3	4	6	7	0
Ludlow	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	8	1
Clifton Moor	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Dunsop Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
Bourne Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Silverstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bentley	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0
Bellever	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Closed in May 2011

[2] Closed in April 2011

[3] No staff based at this location

Land: Contamination

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funds her Department has received under Heading 1 of the EU Budget in respect of the decontamination of brownfield sites in the latest period for which figures are available; and when she expects further such funds to be received. [64246]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for the relevant EU Budget Heading—1b (which includes Structural and Cohesion Funds, the main programme which supports the decontamination of brownfield land). The information is drawn from reported action under Code 50 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)—"Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land".

As at 30 June 2011, the UK had contracted to pay a total of £41,958,337 (30 June Euro to £ sterling conversion rate) during the budget period 2007 to 2013. Further payments could be made during the current budget period, subject to the eligibility of specific projects.

Rural Development Programme: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure the use of funding available to Yorkshire and the Humber under the Rural Development Programme for England. [67289]

Mr Paice: We are currently reviewing the budgets for future years of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) as part of the move to a more nationally consistent approach to delivery for the rest of the programme, and it is our intention that available budgets for Axes 1, 3 and 4 of the programme should be fully utilised. The Yorkshire and the Humber region's RDPE resource allocation for 2011-12 is £12.35 million.

Stray Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities in England are under a statutory requirement to provide a stray dog service. [64137]

Mr Paice: Under sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities in England and Wales have a duty to provide a service to collect stray dogs. Under the 1990 Act local authorities that have this duty are all district councils, all London borough councils, the common council of the City of London and the council of the Isles of Scilly.

Trees: Disease Control

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures her Department has taken in response to infestations of trees and woodlands; what measures have been taken in relation to outbreaks of oak processionary moth; and what measures have been taken in relation to trees in the Ealing ward of Hanger Hill. [65185]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 283W.

The Forestry Commission has powers to control pests under the Plant Heath (Forestry) Act 2005. The Forestry Commission is also working with the Food and Environment Research Agency on a proposal for oak processionary moth to be listed as a quarantine pest under European plant health legislation. While this proposal is being considered, our national measures remain in force.

The strategy to deal with oak processionary moth has moved from eradication to one of containment in the west London outbreak area. This is because the moth is now established in mature trees where it is no longer feasible to locate and destroy the pest effectively. A 10km buffer zone has been set up outside the outbreak area within which regular surveys will be conducted and statutory control notices will ensure that any new infestations are eradicated.

The Ealing Ward of Hanger Hill now lies within the containment zone.

Wildlife: Circuses

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* options she has considered and *(b)* steps she plans to take to give effect to the resolution of the House of 23 June 2011 on wild animals and circuses. [66002]

Mr Paice: The Government will listen to the view of the House of Commons and is sympathetic to the motion for a ban, agreed to on 23 June 2011. We will continue to look carefully at how this could be introduced: there are legal difficulties that we cannot ignore but which we are continuing to explore.

Given that a ban is not an immediate possibility, we will proceed with the licensing regime described below, which will stop circuses from using wild animals unless they provide appropriate welfare standards. In the meantime, circus animals, like most animals under the control of man, are protected from unnecessary suffering and poor welfare by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The licensing regime will lay down appropriate standards to protect the welfare of the 39 (approximately) animals in circuses in the UK. This means we will be able to act quickly to tackle those circuses that fail to maintain appropriate welfare standards for each animal. A full public consultation exercise on the proposed regulations will be carried out shortly.

Any circuses in England that wish to have wild animals such as tigers, lions and elephants performing in them will need to demonstrate that they meet high animal welfare standards for each animal before they can be granted a licence to keep those animals. The licensing scheme will be enforced through inspections by Government-approved vets and it is our intention that the costs will be borne by the industry.

As this work is under way, we will continue to explore ways of overcoming the legal obstacles of introducing a ban of live animals in line with the resolution of the House of Commons.

PRIME MINISTER

Andrew Coulson

John Cryer: To ask the Prime Minister which company conducted the background check on Mr Andy Coulson prior to his appointment as Director of Communications. [66230]

The Prime Minister: A background check was conducted prior to Mr Coulson's appointment as Director of Communications to the Conservative Party in 2007. On appointment to the Civil Service, special advisers are security cleared to the appropriate level.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Prime Minister whether he or any member of his staff have had any discussions with Mr Andy Coulson regarding the evidence given by Mr Coulson in the case of Thomas Sheridan at Glasgow High Court in 2010. [67708]

The Prime Minister: The evidence Mr Coulson gave related to his former employment and is a matter for Mr Coulson.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister whether Mr Andrew Coulson made any declaration of conflict of interest under paragraph 15B of the Model Contract for Special Advisers. [67904]

The Prime Minister: No.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister what period of notice Mr Andrew Coulson gave before he left employment in 10 Downing Street. [67905]

The Prime Minister: Mr Coulson notified me of his intention to leave. This was announced on 21 January 2011 and he left on 31 January 2011.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with paragraph 15E of the Model Contract for Special Advisers in the case of Mr Andrew Coulson. [67925]

The Prime Minister: Mr Coulson as a special adviser was bound by the requirements of the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and I am not aware that anyone is suggesting that he did not act in accordance with those requirements.

Media Ownership

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister on what date his Chief of Staff informed the Home Office about the alleged involvement of the News of the World with criminals. [67367]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 302-03.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he has discussed News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport between 23 December 2010 and 12 July 2011; [67630]

(2) whether he discussed News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB with James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks at dinner on 23 December 2010; [67631]

(3) what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the Ministerial Code of his attendance at dinner with James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks on 23 December 2010; [67632]

(4) whether he notified the Cabinet Secretary of his intention to attend a dinner with James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks on 23 December 2010; and if so what advice he received; [67633]

(5) whether his officials or advisers have discussed News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, and *(b)* any of his officials or advisers between 23 December 2010 and 12 July 2011. [67634]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W, and to the list of proprietors, senior executives and editors of media organisations that I have met since the general election which was published on Friday 15 July 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/new/pm-pubished-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

I had no role in the BSkyB takeover nor did I seek to influence the decisions of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt).

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67159]

(2) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times he has declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67182]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings with hon. and right hon. Members of different parties on a range of subjects.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Females

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes funded by his Department support the empowerment of women in Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [66486]

Mr Duncan: Women and girls lie at the heart of DFID's Operational Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We are empowering women to play a stronger role in decisions affecting their lives. Our Community Recovery programme, for example, has increased the elected representation of women on village decision-making committees from almost zero to 27%. We are also supporting efforts to ensure that women play a full and influential part in upcoming national elections.

We are also seeking real results for women and girls in our support to education, where we plan to get 225,000 more girls into primary school and reduce dropout rates from 8% to 5%. We are also making maternal and reproductive health services available to hundreds of thousands of women, including meeting the contraceptive needs of some 235,000 women and girls and reducing the risks of childbirth by ensuring that more than 100,000 births a year are attended by skilled health personnel. At least 8.5 million women and children will be protected from malaria over the next few years as a result of our funding of a mass distribution programme for insecticide-treated bed nets.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66752]

Mr Duncan: The carbon emissions resulting from energy use in the Department for International Development's UK estate for June 2010 was 286 tonnes. The corresponding figure for June 2011 was 214 tonnes.

Overseas Representation

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department has a permanent presence. [67094]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a permanent presence in the following countries:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
China
Democratic Republic of Congo
Ethiopia
France
Gambia
Ghana
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Liberia
Malawi
Montserrat
Mozambique
Nepal
Nigeria
Occupied Palestine Territory
Pakistan
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa

South Sudan
St Helena
Sudan
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States of America
Vietnam
Zambia
Zimbabwe.

The list includes countries where DFID has a small permanent representation within international development institutions such as the United Nations, World Bank and European Union.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66566]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) central records show the following items were reported as either lost or stolen, together with estimated replacement costs, in the year ended 31 March 2011:

Items	*Number of items*	*Total estimated replacement cost (£)*
Memory sticks	2	20
Laptops	14	3,780
Mobile phone	1	53
Vehicle	1	1,490

Of the items reported as lost or stolen one laptop was identified as being stolen from Palace Street and one vehicle was taken from an overseas office location. The remaining items were all identified as being lost or stolen out of office hours and away from DFID premises.

The Department has policies in place requiring all instances of lost or stolen items to be thoroughly investigated.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67162]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs. My Ministers and I regularly meet MPs of all parties to discuss DFID-related issues on which they have a concern or interest.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67185]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Yes.

I will not consider keeping data on the number of times DFID officials have declined a meeting with hon. Members of political parties as, in normal business, I would expect hon. Members to contact Ministers, rather than officials.

Developing Countries: Cotton

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the statement on cotton issued by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on 27 January 2010. [52209]

Mr O'Brien: The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group made a statement on 27 January 2011 calling for an early resolution to the issue of cotton subsidies in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The UK Government fully support the ACP Group position.

The UK Government are at the forefront of countries pushing for the removal of cotton subsidies as part of the Doha Development Agenda. We have and will continue to lobby the US bilaterally to remove their cotton subsidies.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since the creation of the National Security Council. [67325]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I meet regularly with the National Security Adviser.

Overseas Aid

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on placing his Department's budget on a statutory footing. [66507]

Mr Duncan: We have not received any representations regarding placing the budget of the Department for International Development on a statutory footing.

We have received a number of representations regarding the coalition Government's commitment to enshrine the commitment to spend 0.7% of national income as official development assistance from 2013 onwards. As the Prime Minister has made clear, the Government intend to place that commitment on to a statutory footing as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he plans to give to Pakistan in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [67323]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The amount of aid the Department for International Development (DFID) plans to give to Pakistan over the coming years is set out in the DFID

Pakistan Operational Plan 2011-15. This increased support will be linked to the Government of Pakistan's own progress on reform.

	Resource (£000)
2011-12	267,000
2012-13	267,000
2013-14	412,000

UN Women: Finance

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 348W, on UN Women, if he will consider increasing the annual contribution of his Department to UN Women to £40 million of core funding for each of the next two years in order to ensure the effectiveness of the agency's work. [67402]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No.

TRANSPORT

Akhona Geveza

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has taken steps to investigate the death of the maritime cadet Akhona Geveza on the UK-registered vessel Safmarine Kariba on 24 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [63962]

Mike Penning: The Croatian authorities undertook an investigation into the death of the South African cadet as the body was found in Croatian waters.

The DFT and MCA have liaised with South African officials on a number of occasions; however, the Department has no jurisdiction to launch a separate formal investigation into the case.

Departmental Photographs

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on ministerial *(a)* photoshoots and *(b)* videos since May 2010. [67627]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The information is as follows:

(a) £550.00 has been spent by the central Department on ministerial photoshoots/photographs. This all relates to photos which had been pre-arranged to be taken of the new ministerial team in May 2010. Such practices have been discontinued.

The Highways Agency spent an additional £400.00.

(b) The Department has two in-house staff responsible for video output for the Department and its Agencies, which includes production of ministerial videos as well as training and other (internal) purposes. Their use allows ministerial speeches to be provided remotely, which both supports the Department's promotion of the alternatives to travel concept, and saves considerable money on travel costs.

External costs for the hire of specialist equipment for the production of videos in which Ministers appeared was £6,987.70.

All figures quoted are exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67229]

Norman Baker: My Department has awarded 145 procurement contracts to small businesses since May 2010, where a small business is defined as one having fewer than 250 employees.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59724]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's strategic priorities are clearly set out in our business plan, a refreshed version of which was published in May. As the plan sets out, our strategy is to deliver a transport system that is an engine for economic growth but one that is also increasingly de-carbonised. The priorities set out in the plan include targeted investments and initiatives to improve transport links, address congestion and stimulate green growth. They will be delivered by devolving power wherever possible, making our networks (including the railway) more efficient and looking for every opportunity to use de-regulatory means to achieve our goals.

Exports: Biofuels

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will commission research to examine the UK's capacity to export biofuel overseas; and if he will make a statement. [56686]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 24 May 2011]*: The Department for Transport will continue to monitor the impact of the renewable transport fuels obligation on the UK biofuels market and UK business.

Additionally, annual statistics on commodity balances for renewables and waste are published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The statistics include export and import values for liquid biofuels. The DECC data are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

(Renewables and waste: commodity balances (DUKES 7.1-7.3))

UK biofuels production data (2009) can be found in the UK Biofuels production abstract, on the following website:

https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/welcome-to-the-restats-web-site/

The 2010 data will be available on 28 July 2011.

Freight

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of trends in modal shift between road freight and rail freight *(a)* in each year since the introduction of the Mode Shift Revenue Support Grant and *(b)* in the 10 preceding years. [67423]

Mike Penning: The information is as follows:

(a) No assessment has been made of trends in modal shift between road freight and rail freight since the introduction of the Mode Shift Revenue Support scheme in April 2010. We intend to conduct an assessment when sufficient data are available to detect any shift in trend.

(b) Data on domestic freight transport by mode is compiled annually. Data on the 10 years to 2009 are available in Table 4.1 of "Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2010"

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/index.html

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Mode Shift Revenue Support Grant in encouraging modal shift of freight. [67424]

Mike Penning: An assessment of the estimated number of lorry journeys removed and the benefits this has delivered has been undertaken for the first full year of the Mode Shift Revenue Support scheme. This indicates that over 900,000 lorry journeys were removed from Britain's roads as a result of MSRS grant support in the 12 months to 31 March 2011. Approximately 130,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions were thus avoided.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the implications of the findings of the report on the productive use of rail travel time and value of travel time saving for travellers in the course of work commissioned by his Department for the High Speed 2 project. [64063]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I have given her today (UIN 62769).

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had on the construction of *(a)* stations, *(b)* trains and *(c)* track for the High Speed 2 network; and which companies have indicated an interest in bidding for each project. [64777]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* No such discussions have taken place. As the Department is currently consulting the public on the principle of High Speed Two (HS2) and is yet to seek powers from Parliament, it would be inappropriate at this stage to conduct discussions, or to receive expressions of interest, of a commercial nature about the construction of stations or the procurement of trains or track for HS2.

Liverpool Cruise Terminal

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the consultation document on the proposal to remove objections to lifting a grant condition regarding the use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal published on 7 July 2011, whether he assessed the value for money of the proposed partial repayment of public funds; and if he will make a statement. [66211]

Mike Penning: This proposal reflects a judgment that weighs the prospective benefits from extending the use of the terminal, together with partial repayment of grant, against considerations of fair competition with other terminals. The local and regional benefits, for which the grants were originally paid, could increase if turnaround use is allowed. The consultation is an opportunity for anyone to express views on this.

Ministerial Meetings

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department had with Mr Andy Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 22 January 2011; [66777]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department have attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (2) BSkyB since his appointment. [66813]

Norman Baker: As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of the 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-14.

Ports

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the EU Transport Commissioner on the harmonisation of port entry and clearance formalities across the EU. [63969]

Mike Penning: Officials from the Department are involved in regular discussions, together with their counterparts in other members states, with the European Commission on the implementation of Directive 2010/65/EU on reporting formalities for ships calling at/departing from ports in the EU.

There have been no direct discussions with the EU Transport Commissioner on the matter of harmonisation of port entry and clearance formalities.

The Department will continue to work closely with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the UK Border Agency and HM Revenue and Customs on implementation.

Ports: Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work his Department has undertaken on improving intermodal connectivity between deep-sea ports and the rail freight network. [67462]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Department for Transport has not carried out any such work. The main studies on this topic have been Network Rail's route utilisation strategies. These have managed capability gaps on the rail network in respect of a number of markets including the rail haulage of deep-sea intermodal containers. The Department has funded a number of recommended interventions as part of its policy of developing a strategic freight network.

Major port expansions may require the developers (as for example in the case of Felixstowe South) to enter into obligations to increase rail capability so as to facilitate a sufficient rail share and to avoid detriment to existing rail users.

Railways

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the report on The productive use of rail travel time and value of travel time saving for travellers in the course of work commissioned by his Department. [62769]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* Officials have considered the study "Productive Use of Rail Travel Time and the Valuation of Travel Time Savings for Rail Business Travellers" but no formal evaluation of it has been carried out. The study only provides a partial analysis of the complex issues regarding the productive use of travel time and further primary research would be required before a full assessment of the findings could be undertaken. The Department is considering whether further research on this would be justified and is assessing options for taking it forward.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department is taking steps to implement the recommendation of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study that train operating companies should be liable to pay penalties for exceeding overcrowding limits; [67760]

(2) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, what progress his Department has made on developing a high-level framework for rail asset management to reduce costs associated with the rail network; [67761]

(3) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether he plans to introduce legislative proposals to give Network Rail statutory powers to acquire temporary or permanent interests in land owned by third parties; [67762]

(4) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, what plans he has to improve the rail network's asset condition monitoring; [67764]

(5) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, if his Department will produce a best-practice framework for major whole-system programmes in the rail network. [67765]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received Sir Roy McNulty's final report on the value for money of the railway. The Department will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to agree proposals for the reform of the industry. The Government are committed to publishing their proposals for the future of the rail industry before the end of the year.

Railways: Disability

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made towards implementing the Technical Specification for Interoperability for Persons of Reduced Mobility on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future rail carriages. [67748]

Norman Baker: The Technical Specification for Interoperability for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM TSI) is the pan-European accessibility standard that has applied to contracts for new trains of a new design, and major refurbishment of existing trains, signed after 30 June 2008 (or, for orders of new trains to existing designs, since 1 January 2010).

It replaced, for heavy rail, the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (RVAR)—which are similar domestic access standards that have been in place since 1998.

Over 6,600 vehicles are in service which comply with one of the two access standards. Further details can be found here:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/transportforyou-access-rail-vehicles-pubs-rva/accessibilitystandards.xls

All future train fleets, such as IEP, Thameslink and Crossrail, will comply with the PRM TSI. Meanwhile, the law requires all rail vehicles to be accessible by 1 January 2020.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the affordability of regulated rail fares following the introduction of the RPI plus 3% formula. [65359]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* A distributional analysis of the impact of rail fare increases was conducted during the spending review and used to inform Department for Transport and Treasury decisions on spending review outcomes.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether ticket machines offer all tickets offered for sale by train operating companies, including the cheapest available for travel. [65397]

Mrs Villiers: No research has been commissioned recently but the studies undertaken by Passenger Focus (including those undertaken in conjunction with train operators) have informed discussions at all levels, including the independent McNulty Value for Money study. The industry needs to improve its ticket machines and to ensure that passengers are properly informed about the ticket choices available. We will continue to challenge the industry to do that including through our fares review and the White Paper on the future of the rail industry which we intend to publish in November.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether he plans to work with Transport for London on improving interaction between the national rail fare system and the London travelcard area; [67756]

(2) with reference to the recommendations of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether he plans to give the Office of Rail Regulation a role in rail fare regulation; [67758]

(3) whether his Department is taking steps to implement the recommendation of the final independent report of the Rail Value for Money Study that train operating companies should be allowed to *(a)* end the distinction between commuter fares and protected fares and *(b)* widen the rail fares basket. [67759]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport will be working closely with the relevant stakeholders over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to agree proposals for the reform of the industry.

As a first step towards a fairer and more effective system of fares and ticketing, the Government will also carry out a fares review, and are currently considering the terms of reference, scope and timetable for this work, including the appropriate form of consultation.

Railways: Planning Permission

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process will be followed to transfer planning applications affecting the rail network under consideration by the Infrastructure Planning Commission to other bodies after its abolition. [67420]

Mrs Villiers: The Localism Bill includes a power of direction to allow the Secretary of State for Transport to transfer applications on a case by case basis at the point of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's abolition.

Railways: Standards

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the data on train punctuality over each relevant period submitted to his Department by each train operating company participating in the right-time railway initiative. [61281]

Norman Baker: The Public Performance Measure data for train operating companies submitted to the Department for Transport are already published on the Network Rail website at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/742.aspx

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* staff and *(b)* external consultants involved in rolling stock procurement in each year since 2004. [67524]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I regret that the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials responsible for rolling stock procurement have received a salary greater than that of the Prime Minister in each year since 2004. [67525]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Department for Transport had one official responsible for rolling stock procurement over the period in question who received a salary greater than the Prime Minister between 2005 and January 2011. This official left the Department in January 2011 as part of the spending review.

No officials responsible for rolling stock procurement received a salary greater than the Prime Minister in 2004.

Severn River Crossings: Tolls

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to end tolls on the Severn Crossings. [67072]

Mike Penning: It has been standard practice to toll all major crossings in the UK since 1945. However, no decisions have yet been made on the future of the Severn Crossing once the existing concession ends in 2017.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date bidders for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project submitted their final prices. [65252]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Final prices were received in bidders' responses on 12 January 2011.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any additional criteria were added to assess *(a)* bidders and *(b)* bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project between 31 April 2008 and the announcement of preferred bidders in June 2011. [65420]

Mrs Villiers: No additional criteria were added to assess the accreditation of bidders or the evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project since 30 April 2008.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes to the weighting of criteria for the assessment of *(a)* bidders and *(b)* bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project were made between

31 April 2008 and the announcement of preferred bidder in June 2011; at what stage such changes were made; and for what reasons. [65421]

Mrs Villiers: No changes were made to the weighting of criteria for the accreditation of bidders or for the evaluation of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project since 30 April 2008.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultants to evaluate the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project to date. [65441]

Mrs Villiers: From May 2008, the Department has spent approximately £13.1 million (exc VAT) to date on specialist consultants and advisers to evaluate the Thameslink Rolling Stock project. This resource has included financial, procurement, technical, legal, planning and other specialist advice required to deliver the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project which is one of the largest rolling stock orders in the country.

Of this figure, £5.3 million has been spent since May 2010.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he requested changes to the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project following the review which he reported to the House on 25 November 2010. [65474]

Mrs Villiers: The Government conducted a major project review during June/July 2010 which included a review of the Thameslink programme. The aims of the review were to assess:

> the financial savings achievable by the project in 2010-11 and beyond;
>
> the likelihood of successful delivery of savings and project aims.

No changes were made to the Thameslink Rolling Stock project as a result of this review. The evaluation criteria set by the previous Government binds the current Administration.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department assessed the effect on Bombardier's ability to *(a)* complete existing orders and *(b)* bid for future new contracts of his decision on the award of the Thameslink contract. [65893]

Mrs Villiers: Neither Bombardier's ability to complete existing orders nor their ability to bid for future contracts were in the evaluation criteria specified in the Invitation to Tender.

However, the pre-qualification assessment of all potential bidders included an assessment of the applicants' manufacturing capacity, identifying that which is committed to other orders; and details of how the applicant manages their order book to ensure that actual and potential orders can be scheduled into production plans.

Third Sector

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67629]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Department does not hold the information in the form requested, nor could it be obtained other than at disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AssetCo: Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value is of each contract his Department holds with AssetCo or its subsidiaries. [67271]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* My Department holds no contracts with AssetCo or its subsidiaries.

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase of 31 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 526W, on the Audit Commission: expenditure, what the *(a)* date, *(b)* venue and *(c)* cost to the public purse has been of each Audit Commission Alumni event. [67695]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 20 July 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission set up its alumni group in 2008 to keep in touch with colleagues who had left the Commission, either on retirement, or to move on to other organisations or industries. Due to the number of people registered to attend, the events were held at external venues in London.

Staff felt it was useful to keep these contacts, not only to network—the focus at two events were debates or lectures on public service issues relevant to the Commission's work. However, the Commission's Management Team did not feel that the benefits outweighed the cost, so the last event was held in May 2010.

The event held on (a) 4 November 2009 at (b) One Great George Street was the first event for current and former staff. The cost was (c) £3115.30, which included room hire, equipment hire and refreshments.

The second event was held on (a) 10 November 2009 at (b) the Institution of Engineering and Technology. It focused on a debate on Regulation and its Future, by Nick Timmins and Professor Sir Michael Barber, after which there followed a roundtable discussion led by Paul Kirby. The cost was (c) £4138.60, which included room hire, equipment hire and refreshments.

The final event, held on (a) 12 May 2010, was at (b) the Royal Horseguards. Mark Harris, the Chief Executive, National Lottery Commission gave a lecture about Regulation in Practice. The cost was (c) £4540.68, which included room hire, equipment hire and refreshments. The figure quoted in my letter of 31 January was the estimated rather than final cost.

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 740W, on the Audit Commission: expenditure, if he will place in the Library a copy of each bespoke photography image purchased for the launch and reporting of Comprehensive Area Assessment; what the name is of the photographers or associated company used; and what the cost to the public purse was of the Comprehensive Area Assessment photography work. [67656]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 20 July 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The launch event for Comprehensive Area Assessment took place at St Martin in the Field on 7 December 2009 (under embargo for a 9 December launch). Thirty two photographic images were purchased by the Commission from the official photographer, Frank Noon at a total cost of £250. These photographs have been supplied to the House of Commons Library, as requested.

The main image used for the Oneplace website was purchased from photo library Getty Images at a cost of £439.99.

Big Stick photography took portraits at a cost of £1670 of all of the Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment Leads who were responsible for coordinating and producing the local assessments. We also used Big Stick to take pictures to support our communication activity to explain CAA with public bodies. Other invoices were for a week's worth of work in Sunderland, at a cost of £2275.04, and on-site shoots in Stockport and London costing £1160.

Other costs related to CAA are £785 for images supplied by brand and image agency Fishburn Hedges (who developed the Oneplace brand); and £448 with Photofusion on three stock shots for the Oneplace National Overview Report. These can viewed on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.audit-commission.gov.uk/infobyarea/region/area/Pages/areaoverview.aspx?region=54&area=319

The images associated with each area page on the Oneplace site were supplied by a council in that area. These were free of charge. Other images in the website were around 100 stock images at varying cost. Some were free of charge, some will have been at a minimal cost of £2 each. To calculate the exact cost would take disproportionate time and cost.

In my response to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase of 1 February 2011, Official Report, column 740W, I said that the increase in expenditure in 2009/10 was due to the extra photography work associated with the launch and reporting of CAA. As well as the specific purchases listed above the Commission updated images in its general photo library during 2009/10 at an estimated cost of £7,200. These were used for a variety of purposes, including some associated with CAA. Disaggregating the costs and photographs between the different projects would be disproportionate in terms of both time and costs.

Therefore the cost to the public purse for the CAA photography work is estimated to be £7228.03, plus a proportion of the cost incurred for the updated images for the Commission's general photo library.

Council Tax

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was, in real terms, of replacing *(a)* rates with the community charge and *(b)* the community charge with council tax. [65634]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers on the set up costs relating to *(a)* community charge and *(b)* council tax for Scotland dated 7 November 1996, *Official Report*, column 667, costs relating to *(a)* community charge in England dated 26 April 1989, *Official Report*, column 574 and costs relating to *(b)* council tax dated 5 November 1992, *Official Report*, column 3.

Departmental Publications

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a list of publications issued by his Department in each of the last three years. [65704]

Robert Neill: This information can be found on my Department's website, using the publications search facility:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/all/?view=Search+form

Gifts and Endowments

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what gifts valued below £140 Ministers in his Department received in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [61020]

Robert Neill: The receipt of gifts by Ministers is handled in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Code. Based on available records the following gifts valued below £140 were received in each of the years in question:

2006-07

Book
Glass ornament
Paperweight
Scarf

2007-08

Books
Crystal ornament
Glass bowl
Paperweight

2008-09

Book
Letter opener
Pen
T-shirt
Trowel
Wallet

Government Procurement Card

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 446W, on departmental official hospitality, which of the transactions under the heading of *(a)* restaurants and bars and *(b)* leisure activities in the Government

Procurement Card transaction data of (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 were made using cards held by the private office of each Minister in his Department. [61766]

Robert Neill: The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using cards held by ministerial private offices in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

2008-09

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
14 April 2008	Nags Head Inn	Usk	Restaurants and Bars	51.15
21 April 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	36.20
1 May 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	30.25
12 May 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	43.55
3 June 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	48.45
4 June 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	52.15
11 June 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	55.40
13 June 2008	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	35.75
18 June 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	48.10
20 June 2008	Ritazza Cafe	Paddington St	Restaurants and Bars	7.17
25 June 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	5.45
1 July 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	54.55
1 July 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	5.30
7 July 2008	Pump House	Durham	Leisure Activities	245.40
9 July 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	6.55
11 July 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	48.35
15 July 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	42.15
18 July 2008	Costa Coffee	Newcastle U T	Restaurants and Bars	7.30
23 July 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	52.90
24 July 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	88.70
31 July 2008	Moto Catering	Ferrybridge	Restaurants and Bars	8.08
19 August 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	27.60
21 August 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	22.75
21 August 2008	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	52.90
2 October 2008	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	33.75
14 October 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	48.25
20 October 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	49.10
30 October 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	53.20
31 October 2008	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	30.35
31 October 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	27.20
2 November 2008	Nanjing Qina Tang Renjia	Nanjing	Restaurants and Bars	27.30
4 November 2008	SHH Yong An Xianqiangfang	Shanghai	Restaurants and Bars	522.73
20 November 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	50.05
25 November 2008	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	40.10
2 December 2008	The Wolseley	London W1J	Restaurants and Bars	99.23
5 December 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	45.45
17 December 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	33.00
18 December 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	-18.00
22 January 2009	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	31.30
5 February 2009	Starbucks Coffee Co	London	Restaurants and Bars	5.43
12 February 2009	Costa @ Cardinal	London 430220	Restaurants and Bars	6.00
10 March 2009	Pret A Manger	57 Great East	Restaurants and Bars	3.58
17 March 2009	Costa Waterloo	London SE1	Restaurants and Bars	4.30
19 March 2009	Gruppo Inn The Parks	London SW1A	Restaurants and Bars	107.78
30 March 2009	Starbucks Coffee3913407	75 Paris 8	Restaurants and Bars	9.20

2009-10

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
3 April 2009	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	480.10
8 May 2009	Pizza Express	London 2031	Restaurants and Bars	35.25
14 May 2009	Garfunkels	Edinburgh 897	Restaurants and Bars	16.00
15 May 2009	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	334.20
5 June 2009	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	42.95
5 June 2009	The Wolseley	London W1J	Restaurants and Bars	97.37
1 October 2009	Old Star	City Of Westminster	Restaurants and Bars	44.20
21 October 2009	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	18.10

2009-10

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
30 October 2009	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	95.40
3 November 2009	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	31.20
26 November 2009	Fuel Cafe Bar Ltd	Manchester	Restaurants and Bars	9.40
12 January 2010	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	384.60
18 February 2010	Costa @ Durham	Southbound	Restaurants and Bars	8.50
8 March 2010	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	35.00

The Government Procurement Card spend categories depend on how the vendor classifies their business. Some transactions under the 'restaurants and bars' line related to the purchase of gifts on official business, and were excluded from the figures provided in my written answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 447W.

The single transaction listed under 'leisure activities' was a ministerial working dinner and should therefore be added to the figures provided in my written answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 447W.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Local Government Finance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the powers of local authorities to raise finance through the issue of municipal bonds; and if he will make a statement. [61816]

Robert Neill: Under the prudential system local authorities are able to borrow for capital projects without Government consent, provided that they can afford the borrowing costs. Authorities are free to choose the source of these loans, and may borrow, should they wish to do so, by issuing bonds.

Also the Local Government Resource Review is considering how, in the context of changes to the business rate system, Tax Increment Financing can be introduced. Tax Increment Financing enables borrowing against future increases in business rate receipts to help fund the development of infrastructure.

Local Government: Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to tender through Contracts Finder. [67253]

Robert Neill: In February, a new, free-to-use, online Contracts Finder portal was launched to make it easier and cheaper for small and medium enterprises and the voluntary and community sector to bid for public sector opportunities.

Procurement in local government is a matter for local discretion and my Department does not wish to prescribe to local authorities how they should conduct their business. My Department does, however, encourage local authorities to consider tendering through Contracts Finder. I am also delighted to say that the noble Lady, Baroness Eaton, supported Contract Finder while Chair of the Local Government Association, vowing that the Local Government Group will, through the Local Productivity Programme, spearhead its roll-out across local government.

Planning Inspectorate

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department of the Planning Inspectorate was in 2010-11. [67706]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Planning Inspectorate received funding of £38.136 million from my Department in 2010-11.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 390W, on immigration: housing, what definition of habitual residence his Department provides to *(a)* registered providers of housing and *(b)* local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [67767]

Andrew Stunell: Habitual residence is not defined in legislation. It is a matter of fact, taking into account all the circumstances in a particular case. Decision makers must consider a variety of factors including the general nature of a person's residence in the UK; their reasons for coming to the UK; and the length of their actual residence here.

The 2002 Code of Guidance on the Allocation of Accommodation and the 2006 Homelessness Code of Guidance provide detailed advice to local housing authorities about the factors which they should take into account when considering whether an applicant is habitually resident in the context of eligibility for social housing and homelessness assistance.

Third Sector

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which charities and voluntary organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67430]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Details of all meetings with, and visits to, external organisations and their representatives by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and all Ministers in his Department, including charities and voluntary organisations, are published on the DCLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata

More recent data will be published here in due course.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals involving Gypsy and Traveller site *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* enforcement actions Mr Clive Kirkbride has determined in each year since his appointment; and how many such appeals have been (i) allowed and granted permission in favour of the Gypsy or Traveller site and (ii) refused permission. [67012]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the number of planning and enforcement appeals decided by Clive Kirkbride each year, since his appointment at the end of 2002.

	Planning appeals		*Enforcement appeals*	
	Number allowed	*Number refused*	*Number allowed*	*Number refused*
2003	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—
2005	—	—	—	—
2006	—	—	—	—
2007	1	—	—	—
2008	—	—	—	—
2009	—	—	—	—
2010	1	—	4	1

These results should be read in conjunction with the Introduction to the section of the Planning Inspectorate's Statistical Report for 2010-11 that shows the percentage allowed and dismissed by Inspector. In particular:

> All cases are considered on their individual merits, and on the basis of the evidence submitted;
>
> Inspectors do not select their own casework, and all work on a variety of case types; and
>
> Inspectors are rigorously trained to ensure that they develop and maintain the skills necessary to undertake the work that they are given. These skills will influence the type of cases they deal with.
>
> www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/statistics_eng/10_11/stats_report_final_2010_2011.pdf

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each planning inspector who has determined an appeal concerning Gypsy and Traveller sites in each of the last five years; and in how many and what proportion of such cases *(a)* the appeal was allowed in favour of the appellant and *(b)* the appeal was dismissed in favour of the local planning authority's original decision. [67088]

Robert Neill: Tables showing the names of planning inspectors who have presided over one or more such planning appeals in the last five years (2006-10), and the proportion allowed and dismissed have been placed in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Criminal Responsibility

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14; and if he will make a statement. [66497]

Mr Blunt: The Government have no plans to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14.

Courts: Rural Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of the projected level of access to justice in rural communities in each of the next four financial years. [66365]

Mr Djanogly: The Government published a full impact assessment alongside its response to the legal aid reform consultation. This outlines our best estimate of the likely impact of proposals, though ultimately impacts will be driven by behavioural responses to the reforms and these are very difficult to predict with any degree of accuracy. However, we have also undertaken to carry out a full post-implementation review of the reforms following their implementation.

Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to visit the Crown dependencies in the next year. [66646]

Mr Djanogly: My noble Friend, Lord McNally, Minister with responsibility for the Crown dependencies, has visited all three Crown dependencies within the last 12 months and plans to make return visits in the near future.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67202]

Mr Djanogly: Guidance is produced by my Department when users need information to be confident that they can comply with the law. Guidance is compliant with the code of practice on guidance and is tested with stakeholders so that it is comprehensive and meets user needs.

Figures are not available on the number of officials involved in the production of guidance.

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunal *(a)* hearings were cancelled by the tribunal, *(b)* hearings were listed as floaters, *(c)* hearings were listed within 26 weeks of receipt in single jurisdiction claims, *(d)* hearings had to be adjourned as a result of being part-heard and *(e)* written judgments were sent to the parties within four weeks of the conclusion of the hearing in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average period of time taken was to list pre-hearing reviews in each region. [67395]

Mr Djanogly: Employment tribunals list various types of hearings, including case management discussions, pre-hearing reviews, full/final hearings (which include assessment of remedies, where relevant) and review hearings.

Listing of hearings in cases (including the cancellation, postponement or adjournment of cases) is a judicial matter. Once listed, 'cancellations' can occur, for example, where the claim is resolved, settled or withdrawn before the hearing is scheduled to take place; where a postponement request is made by one or both of the parties and accepted by the tribunal; or where the employment tribunal itself postpones the hearing on its own volition for any number of reasons.

In relation to part *(a)* of the question, Table 1 shows all hearings marked as 'postponed by Tribunal' on the HMCTS management information system. It is not possible to discern the cause of the postponement (for example whether it was at the instigation of parties, or the tribunal's own volition).

Table 1: Hearings 'Postponed by Tribunal' in the financial year 2010-11

Region	*Total hearings postponed*	*Full hearings postponed*
Midlands	1,200	790
North East and North West	1,400	970
Central London	650	420
Greater London and South East	1,200	960
Wales and South West	880	630
Scotland[1]	—	—
GB total	5,400	3,800

[1] There were no postponements by tribunal recorded in Scotland in 2010-11, in 2009-10 there were two.

Notes:

1. Hearings are marked as 'postponed by Tribunal' on the tribunal management information system. These are hearings where, for a variety of reasons including cancellation, that the hearing has been postponed by the tribunal. It is not possible to separate out the reasons for the postponement. Therefore the table gives indicative figures for the total number of postponements by tribunals, of which cancellations will be a subset.
2. All figures by region in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rounding:

Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.

The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 remain as unit values;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

ET Central database July 2011

In relation to part *(b)*, employment tribunal offices are not required to collate and record this information. Those that do do not report the data so that they can be collated and held centrally. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide the information requested.

In relation to part *(c)*, Table 2 shows the number of 'singles' cases that were listed within 26 weeks of receipt of the original claim.

Table 2: Single cases with hearings listed within 26 weeks of receipt for the financial year 2010-11[1]

Region	*Single cases with hearings listed for hearing within 26 weeks*
Midlands	4,600
North East and North West	10,500
Central London	2,400
Greater London and South East	9,900
Wales and South West	7,400
Scotland	3,800
GB total	38,500

Table 2: Single cases with hearings listed within 26 weeks of receipt for the financial year 2010-11[1]

[1] There were 50,200 cases listed in the financial year 2010-11, of which 77% were listed for a first hearing within 26 weeks. Data on the percentage of single accepted cases where the first hearing began within 26 weeks of receipt (rather than being listed within that period), and the employment tribunals' performance against the 75% target, is published regularly. The latest available information, for the 2010-11 financial year is available on the MOJ website.

Note:

All figures by region in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rounding:

Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.

The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 remain as unit values;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

ET Central database April 2011

In relation to part *(d)*, Table 3 shows hearings that were adjourned as a result of being part-heard.

Table 3: All part heard hearings for the financial year 2010-11

Region	*Total hearings 'part-heard'*	*Full/final hearings 'part-heard'*
Midlands	87	81
North East and North West	390	360
Central London	210	190
Greater London and South East	230	210
Wales and South West	45	42
Scotland	30	30
GB total	990	920

Note:

All figures by region in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rounding:

Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.

The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 remain as unit values;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

ET Central database July 2011

In relation to part *(e)*, Table 4 shows the number of written judgments that were sent to the parties within four weeks of the conclusion of the hearing.

Table 4: Judgments sent to parties within 4 weeks of decision (single claims only) for the financial year 2010-11[1]

Region	*Judgment sent within four weeks*
Midlands	960
North East and North West	2,300
Central London	700
Greater London and South East	3,100
Wales and South West	1,500
Scotland	560

Table 4: Judgments sent to parties within 4 weeks of decision (single claims only) for the financial year 2010-11[1]

Region	*Judgment sent within four weeks*
GB total	9,100

[1] There were 10,600 judgments issued in financial year 2010-11, of which 86% were issued within four weeks of the final hearing.

Note:

All figures by region in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rounding:

Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.

The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 remain as unit values;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

ET Central database April 2011

In relation to the final part of the question about listing pre hearing reviews, Table 5 shows the average time taken to list such hearings in each region.

Table 5: Listing times for pre-hearing reviews for the financial year 2010-11

Region	*Average time from receipt to pre-hearing review (days)*
Midlands	260
North East and North West	150
Central London	150
Greater London and South East	190
Wales and South West	170
Scotland	160
GB average	180

Note:

All figures by region in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rounding:

Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.

The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 remain as unit values;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

ET Central database July 2011

Identification Procedures

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* victims and *(b)* witnesses of crime participating in a video identification parade are able to pre-identify suspects through social media. [66099]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

While no specific assessment of the extent of such pre-identification has been conducted, video identification procedures, like all other identification procedures, are conducted by the police in accordance with the requirements of Code of Practice D issued in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). In addition, the police service has a dedicated group specialising in video identification, which works with the CPS and others, including the Home Office, to identify any issues which might require changes to Code of Practice D.

We are satisfied that the provisions of Code of Practice D balance properly the need for the police to secure admissible identification evidence with the need for safeguards for suspects. In particular, paragraph 3.29 requires that

> "Each eye-witness involved in the procedure (whether they are a witness or victim) shall be asked, after they have taken part, whether they have seen any film, photograph or image relating to the offence or any description of the suspect which has been broadcast or published in any national or local media or on any social networking site and, if they have, they should be asked to give details of the circumstances, such as the date and place as relevant. Their replies shall be recorded."

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is then responsible for considering the evidential implications of any such prior identification when deciding whether the suspect should be charged and for disclosing relevant information to the defence in the event of subsequent proceedings.

Juries: Age

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to raise the age limit for people eligible to serve on juries. [66239]

Mr Blunt: The previous Government's ageing strategy, 'Building a Society for All Ages' (2009), gave an undertaking to review the upper age limit for jury service. A public consultation ran from 16 March to 8 June 2010 and drew 44 responses. We are now considering the issue in the light of the consultation.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of individuals in receipt of legal aid were *(a)* under the age of 18 and *(b)* identified as having a physical or mental disability in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many cases in that period in respect of which such aid was granted concerned clinical negligence. [65915]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is able to provide this information and it is shown in the following table. Figures relate to civil representation only for the financial year 2009-10.

	Overall proportion of legal aid recipients (percentage)	*Total number of clinical negligence cases*
Under 18	18	1,017
Physical or mental disability	11	1,589

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 to 24 years were in receipt of civil and family legal aid in respect of each type of justiciable matter that will (i) be and (ii) not be eligible for legal aid following the implementation of the Government's proposals in the latest year for which information is available; what proportion of all recipients this represented in each case; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [66387]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is able to provide this information and it is shown in the following table. The current data and estimated impact of the reforms are based on 2009-10 closed cases relating to volume and cost of civil family and non-family legal aid for those aged under 18, 18 to 24 and 25 plus.

		Volume (thousand)			*Cost (£ million)*			*% volume*		*% cost*	
		Current	*In scope post reforms*	*Out of scope post reforms*	*Current*	*In scope post reforms*	*Out of scope post reforms*	*In scope post reforms*	*Out of scope post reforms*	*In scope post reforms*	*Out of scope post reforms*
Family	Under 18	23	23	—	120	120	—	100	0	100	0
	18 to 24	55	20	35	90	60	30	37	63	67	33
	25 plus	294	81	215	380	240	140	28	73	63	37
	Total	372	125	250	590	420	170	33	67	71	29
Non family	Under 18	18	12	6	25	15	10	67	33	59	40
	18 to 24	69	35	34	35	25	10	50	50	72	29
	25 plus	462	185	275	210	130	80	40	60	62	38
	Total	549	230	315	270	170	100	42	57	63	37
Total civil (family + non-family)	Under 18	41	35	6	145	135	10	86	14	93	7
	18 to 24	124	55	69	125	85	40	44	56	68	32
	25 plus	756	265	490	590	370	220	36	65	63	37
	Total	920	355	565	860	590	270	39	61	69	31

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded appropriately therefore the totals may not sum to their individual components.
2. Telephone advice data are not available by age. Consequently, telephone advice figures have been excluded from this table and saving/volume reduction figures do not tally with those in the published impact assessments.
3. The figures sum legal help and legal representation.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the provision of support available to alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres in *(a)* Pendle, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [67038]

Anne Milton: Drug and alcohol treatment services are commissioned locally, with funding provided by a combination of central Government funding and local funding provided by a range of local partners including the local authority, health, policy and probation. In Pendle, they are commissioned by Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team who also provide support to delivery of services across the county.

The Government's Drug Strategy, published in December 2010, highlighted the need for local areas to build close links between residential rehabilitation and other services when commissioning support to help people recover from dependence on drugs and alcohol. In a series of initiatives funded by the Department, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) has:

allocated over £65 million since 2007-08 for capital projects to improve the provision of rehabilitation facilities;

launched Rehab Online, a web-based directory of residential services in 2010; and

held a series of regional events in 2011 to raise the profile of such services.

Later this year, the NTA will be responding to the consultation on Building Recovery in Communities by publishing updated advice on models of care for people dependent on drugs and alcohol.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67215]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 252-53W. No meetings have taken place between the Department of Health and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on this topic.

Dental Health: Children

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of tooth decay in children aged *(a)* five to 12 years and *(b)* 12 to 15 years old in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [67006]

Mr Simon Burns: The "NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme for England Oral Health Survey of five-year-old Children 2007/2008 and 12-year-old Children 2008/2009" shows that the average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) among five and 12-year-old children in the area of Peterborough Primary Care Trust was 1.60 and 0.70 respectively compared to a DMFT. of 1.11 and 0.74 respectively for England as a whole.

The full results of the survey are available at:

www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/

The two tables from the survey that include the above data have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67235]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department fully supports the Government's initiative regarding small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and utilises a wide range of organisations within this category who provide an essential contribution to the delivery of the Department's objectives. An average of 17% of purchase order value was placed with small businesses over the past two years.

During the period 1 May 2010 to 13 July 2011, the Department placed a total of 11,225 purchase orders worth £512 million with commercial suppliers, academic institutions, third sector organisations and independent contractors, of which 3,666 worth £82 million were from SMEs. This represents 32.5% of the total orders.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67236]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has advertised a total of 243 contracts or tenders on the Contracts Finder website, since the website's inception up to 18 July 2011. The Department does not hold a consolidated record of the total number of contracts and tenders offered by it during this period, and therefore cannot confirm the proportion that those advertised on Contracts Finder represent of the total.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [67204]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department circulated the Government's "Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation, BRE, 2009", to assist policy officials when producing regulatory guidance.

Information on the number of officials engaged in production of regulatory guidance is not collected centrally and would require disproportionate effort to collate and compile.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67164]

(2) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party; [67187]

(3) on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67580]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department has no plans to keep such data.

Hepatitis

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure equity between regions in provision of treatment for hepatitis C. [67501]

Anne Milton: The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for ensuring that services, including for the treatment of hepatitis C, are commissioned so as to ensure consistency of high quality provision across the country and to address inequalities in access.

IVF: Nottinghamshire

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the compliance of Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the provision of IVF; [67301]

(2) if he will review the decision of Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust not to fund IVF treatment for Susi Henson; [67335]

(3) if he will review *(a)* the eligibility criteria for IVF treatment used by Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* their application to the case of Susi Henson. [67336]

Anne Milton: The provision of NHS services, including in vitro fertilisation, is a matter for the national health service locally. It would not be appropriate for the Department to become involved in this matter.

Primary care trusts are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers.

The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

A copy of this communication has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123405.pdf

Landfill: Health Hazards

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned on potential health risks to children living in close proximity to landfill sites. [67785]

Anne Milton: No studies have been commissioned specifically of childhood. The Department has commissioned research previously on the risks of some types of cancer among people living close to a landfill site and of birth outcomes in babies born to mothers living near sites compared to those living further away (Jarup et al, 2002. *British Journal of Cancer* Volume 86, pages 1732-1736 and Elliott et al, 2001. *British Medical Journal* Volume 323, pages 363-368). A slight increase in congenital anomalies was found but no excess risk of cancer. The independent advisory Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) considered these studies and noted that the findings for birth outcomes were not consistent, and that the study provided no evidence that the rates of anomalies increased after sites had opened:

http://cot.food.gov.uk/cotstatements/cotstatementsyrs/cotstatements2001/sahsulandfill

The COT considered further studies in 2010 and found the results reassuring. In particular, it found no cause for concern for the health of families with infants or for couples who live in the vicinity of landfill sites and who are considering having a baby:

http://cot.food.gov.uk/pdfs/cotstatementlandfill201001.pdf

Naloxone

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to make Naloxone available on the NHS. [66844]

Mr Simon Burns: Naloxone is available through the NHS in England. It is for the devolved Administrations to make decisions about expenditure on individual medicines.

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign-trained nurses are working in hospitals in England. [67029]

Anne Milton: The data are not held centrally. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) collects data on the number of admissions to the NMC register by country.

Nurses: Training

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing training places were provided in each region in academic year 2010-11; and how many such places will be provided in 2011-12. [67028]

Anne Milton: Information on nursing training places is not collected by the Department by academic year, but by financial year. The following table provides the actual training commissions of diploma and degree programmes provided for 2010-11 and planned for 2011-12 by region.

Strategic Health Authority	*2010-11 actual commissions for diploma programmes*	*2010-11 actual commissions for degree programmes*	*2011-12 planned commissions for diploma programmes*	*2011-12 planned commissions for degree programmes*
North East	727	320	399	601
North West	1,595	1,835	433	2,649
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,335	815	579	1,269
East Midlands	4,308	277	1,099	363
West Midlands	1,827	694	0	2,102
East of England	1,170	560	268	1,268
London	2,751	937	286	3,115
South East Coast	911	392	298	871
South Central	859	283	469	639
South West	852	644	262	1,099
National	13,335	6,757	4,093	13,976

Orthopaedics

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the tariff price for specialist orthopaedic operations. [67371]

Mr Simon Burns: Prior to their final publication, the 2011-12 tariffs for orthopaedic operations were shared with clinicians and providers of specialist orthopaedic services to check for any anomalies or perverse clinical incentives.

In 2011-12 specialist orthopaedic procedures continue to attract a 'top-up' payment in addition to the tariff price. This year the top-up is set at 24%.

Work on the 2012-13 tariff is under way, and as in previous years the draft tariff will be shared with providers of specialist orthopaedic services for comment in the autumn.

Out-patients: Attendance

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department collects information on the number of out-patient clinics that are cancelled by hospital consultants within six weeks of their scheduled date. [67337]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information on cancelled out-patient clinics.

Palliative Care: Finance

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on palliative care in each year since 2005-06. [67107]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. The Department has conducted a special exercise to collect information on new investment in end of life care in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and on expenditure on specialist palliative care in 2006-07 and 2010-11. The 2006-07 and 2009-10 data have been published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_086270.pdf

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118810

respectively, and the data for 2010-11 will be published when the exercise is complete.

Private Patients

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from patients who pay for private hospital treatment for the purposes of avoiding the risk of acquiring a serious infection in an NHS hospital; and if he will make a statement. [67489]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has identified no representations of this type from patients in the last six months.

The Government have made clear it is a key priority that the national health service operates a zero tolerance approach to all avoidable health care associated infections. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections are at their lowest ever level since mandatory surveillance was introduced with infections falling by 22% in 2010-11 compared to the previous year. Over the same period, *clostridium difficile* infections fell by 15%.

Public Health England: Speech Therapy

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps Public Health England will take to use speech and language therapists to improve educational and employment outcomes. [66850]

Anne Milton: Public Health England will hold the up-to-date evidence on which public health interventions work, and how to deploy them effectively, across the range of public health practice. This includes such areas as speech and language therapy, where the Government recognise the significant contribution speech and language therapists can make to addressing costly challenges such as poverty, poor mental health, antisocial behaviour, educational attainment and reablement. The Department will publish a consultation document on a Public Health Workforce Strategy in the autumn. To inform this work, a Public Health Workforce Strategy Working Group, chaired by a regional director of public health has been established. Members of the group include representatives from a range of health and local government organisations, including the Co-Chair of the National Allied Health Professional Advisory Board.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67152]

Anne Milton: Departmental officials have met with the Rural Communities Policy Unit on several occasions to discuss the forthcoming Rural Statement. The last meeting was on 15 June 2011.

Southern Cross

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to providing additional resources to the Care Quality Commission to take steps to ensure standards are met in care homes previously owned by Southern Cross. [67406]

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has considered the provision of additional funding to the Care Quality Commission in respect of the registration of new operators of Southern Cross care homes. [67470]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Members to the written ministerial statement I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 105-06WS.

Each year, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) agrees its business plan and financial allocation with the Department. Its financial position is then kept under constant review during the financial year. If the CQC requires additional resources, it will supply a business case which the Department will consider.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process will be followed to ensure that landlords who purchase former Southern Cross care homes are *(a)* fit to operate the homes and *(b)* financially viable. [67407]

Paul Burstow: Landlords already own the homes, as I outlined to the House on 12 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 163-64.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has processes in place to extend registration to include additional care homes, where the provider is already registered subject to meeting the registration requirements.

New providers will have to apply for registration and be subject to the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, including assurance of financial viability under paragraph 13 of the CQC (Registration) Regulation 2009.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Care Quality Commission on the registrations it will be required to undertake following the collapse of Southern Cross. [67471]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 105-06WS.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Dogs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate last inspected premises for beagles at Harlan Wyton; and what the outcome was of that inspection. [67013]

Lynne Featherstone: The establishment was last inspected by the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate on the 18 April 2011. No issues of non-compliance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 or the establishment's certificate of designation were identified.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used in procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010. [66925]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, there were 579,905 animals used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures were carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010. [66926]

Lynne Featherstone: The number of regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010 was 590,826.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* new world primates and *(p)* old world primates were used in procedures conducted in Scotland and regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010. [66927]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, there were 323,740 mice, 36,890 rats, 1,091 guinea pigs, 755 hamsters, 1,683 rabbits, 27 horses and other equids, 4,706 sheep, 447 pigs, 12,750 birds, 817 amphibians, 193,543 fish, four cats, 442 dogs, 40 new world primates and 370 old world primates used in regulated procedures started under the 1986 Act. No reptiles were used.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which were conducted in Scotland in 2010, was performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* NHS hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations. [67047]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, the total number of procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 590,826. Of these, 469,481 or 79% were carried out at universities or medical schools, 33,325 or 6% at Government Departments, 46,556 or 8% at other public bodies and 41,464 or 7% at commercial organisations. None were started at public health laboratories, NHS hospitals or non-profit making organisations.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which were carried out in Scotland, was conducted without anaesthesia in 2010. [67049]

Lynne Featherstone: There were a total of 590,826 regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010 of which 414,528 (70%) used no form of anaesthesia.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010. [67050]

Lynne Featherstone: A total of 579,905 animals were used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010, of which 212,811 were genetically modified and 12,752 were animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which were conducted in Scotland in 2010, was carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation. [67051]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, the number of regulated procedures started for non-toxicological purposes under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 543,050 (92%), and the number started for toxicological purposes was 47,776 (8%).

Badgers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs to police authorities of implementing a badger cull; and what advice her Department has received from the Association of Chief Police Officers on this matter. [67867]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is working closely with officials in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Association of Chief Police Officers on this matter in order to produce an estimate of costs to police authorities.

Biometrics

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Borders Agency takes when a facial recognition machine fails to operate. [67598]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has a service level agreement with the gate supplier and gate servicing and reliability are delivered in line with that contract. In the case of one machine failing to operate, that gate would be closed and an engineer called to repair it; if a bank of gates became inoperable they would be closed and passengers would be processed at the manual control.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the comparative *(a)* cost effectiveness and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) facial recognition equipment and (ii) UK Borders Agency staff at border controls. [67599]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has completed an evaluation of facial recognition technology and this confirmed that the equipment operates securely and to an acceptable performance level. The technology is already cost effective in ports with high volumes of eligible users. Over 4.5 million transactions have already taken place and forecasts indicate that over 20 million border crossings will have been facilitated using automation by 2013-14.

Facial recognition gates have been introduced to assist Border Force officers in facilitating legitimate travel.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many errors in facial recognition equipment operated by her Department have been reported since its introduction. [67606]

Damian Green: Since 2008 there have been over 4.5 million transactions. There have been six reported incidents of facial recognition equipment making a false match, four of which were established to be false alarms. On the remaining two occasions the false matches were detected immediately by Border officers and no breach of the border occurred. System changes were put in place to improve the performance of the equipment following these two incidents.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to staff of her Department on the steps to take in the event of a facial recognition equipment failure at border security control. [67607]

Damian Green: Staff are instructed to log a call with the helpdesk, who will assess the severity of the fault and send an engineer if appropriate. If fewer than three gates in a bank of five are available for use, staff will close the bank and direct passengers to the manual control. This fault reporting procedure follows the same process as for other IT equipment used at the Border.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who within her Department is accountable for the performance of facial recognition machines used by her Department. [67608]

Damian Green: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency is accountable for performance within the agency.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to assess the effectiveness of the introduction of facial recognition equipment for border security and integrity; and what timescale she has set for such an assessment. [67609]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has completed an evaluation of facial recognition and this confirmed that the technology operates securely and to an acceptable performance level. The performance of the technology will be assessed regularly to ensure it continues to operate securely and effectively. Forecasts indicate that over 11 million passengers per year are expected to use automated border crossings by 2013-14.

Public Demonstrations

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to ensure public protests are carried out in a safe and peaceful manner. [53623]

James Brokenshire: The policing of protests is an operational matter for the police. The Government are committed both to ensuring that the law facilitates peaceful protests, and that the police have the powers they need to deal with any violence and disorder.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which she is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66336]

Damian Green: The following table has been provided using Office for National Statistics guidelines for workforce management reporting.

The changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) in December 2010 obliged Departments to offer "voluntary redundancy" on terms equivalent to "voluntary exit" under the compensation scheme before it can issue notice of compulsory redundancy to any member of staff. The costs in the table relate to staff who have accepted compulsory redundancy terms only, as our HR and finance systems record as a separate category those leaving on that basis, but cannot differentiate staff who leave on "voluntary exit" terms and those who have accepted "voluntary redundancy" under the compensation scheme.

Table 1: How much has been spent on redundancies in (a) her Department and (b) each non-departmental body for which she is responsible for since May 2010

	Cost (£)
(a) Her Department	
Home Office and the Executive Agencies	[1]—
(b) Non-departmental bodies	
Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)	[1]—
Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC)	989,000
Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)	[1]—
National Policing Improvements Agency (NPIA)	421,000
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)	[1]—
Security Industry Authority (SIA)	[1]—

Table 1: How much has been spent on redundancies in (a) her Department and (b) each non-departmental body for which she is responsible for since May 2010

	Cost (£)
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	[1]—

[1] Not applicable. *Notes:* 1. Extract date 30 June 2011. 2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand pound. *Source:* Individual finance departments for each area.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what process her Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of her Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67203]

Damian Green: The code of practice for guidance is set centrally and is published by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The Home Office does not keep a central record of the number of officials involved in the production of guidance.

Deportation

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what oversight mechanisms are in place to ensure that enforced removals from the UK are monitored by an independent body. [67624]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has used private sector escorting companies to undertake enforced removals for nearly 20 years. These companies operate within a clear framework set out in legislation and in a set of operating standards and instructions which are published on the agency's website. The role of escorts is subject to oversight by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, who undertakes both announced and unannounced inspections. The agency has, over the past few years, introduced a number of measures to ensure the protection of staff and detainees. These include the use of contract monitors at the main airports used for departures, and an Independent Monitoring Board at Heathrow airport.

We are satisfied that escorts act professionally, ensuring those in their custody are treated with dignity and care. Where detainees complain that the use of force has been excessive, the matter is investigated by the UK Border Agency's Professional Standards Unit. If a complainant is unhappy with the response, they can ask for the issue to be re-examined by the prisons and probation ombudsman, whose role was extended in 2006 to investigate complaints by immigration detainees.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 275-6W, on entry clearances: overseas students, (1) how many of the publicly funded further and higher education institutions that contribute to the eight per cent. non-compliance rate were sixth form colleges; [67636]

(2) what the level of compliance was for independent schools. [67637]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Further analysis of the data used to produce the published reports could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls: Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of employing immigration and customs staff at *(a)* Ebbsfleet International station and *(b)* Ashford International station in (i) 2009-2010 and (ii) 2010-2011. [67601]

Damian Green: Ebbsfleet, Ashford and Stratford International stations are covered on a mobile risk-led basis resourced from St Pancras. St Pancras is specific to Eurostar train operations from Brussels and Paris, and the United Kingdom Border Agency incurred the following pay costs for the years stated.

(i) 2009-10 £1.3 million; and

(ii) 2010-11 £1.7 million

There has been an increase from two mobile teams in 2009-10 to three teams in 2010-11.

Khat

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the use of khat in the last 10 years. [64754]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* A question on the use of khat was added to the British Crime Survey in October 2009 to provide estimates on the level of khat use within the general household population. Prior to this no assessment of prevalence was made by the Department.

First estimates (based on six months data) published in July 2010 show that 0.2% of adults reported using khat in the previous year. As this is the first time the data have been collected, no trend information is available. New estimates for from the 2010-11 BCS will be published end July 2011.

Source:

Hoare, J. and Moon, D. (2010) 'Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (England and Wales)'

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/drugs-alcohol-research/hosb1310/hosb1310?view=Binary

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Immigration plans to reply to the letter of 23 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to David Goodbourne. [63995]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 7 July 2011.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 4 May and 20 June 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr Matthew McDonald. [66154]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* A reply was sent on 18 July 2011 by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert), who apologises for the delay in responding to my hon. Friend.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 30 March 2011 on behalf of the constituent of the hon. Member for Workington, Mr N. Hebert. [66410]

James Brokenshire: A response to the letter was sent on 14 July 2011 by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert), who apologises for the delay in responding to the hon. Member on this matter.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters from the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Banffshire and Buchan Coast of 25 February and 10 May 2011 on the Tier 2 certificate of sponsorship scheme. [66771]

Damian Green: A reply to the letter of 25 February was sent to the hon. Member on 22 March 2011. I will arrange for a copy of that response to be sent to her. There is no trace of receipt in the Home Office of the further correspondence dated 10 May 2011.

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the interim reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North of 27 June 2011, ref M10105.11, when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a substantive reply to his letter of 31 May on the Winsor report. [66073]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* A reply was sent on 18 July 2011 by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert), who apologises for the delay in responding to the hon. Member.

Police: Civilians

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many non-uniformed staff in each police authority area have been *(a)* made redundant, *(b)* required to reapply for their position and *(c)* asked to retrain for posts formerly undertaken by uniformed officers in the last 12 months; [66821]

(2) what the cost of redundancies was in each police authority area in 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the likely costs in 2011-12; [66823]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost of managing changes to contracts of non-uniformed staff in respect of *(a)* redeployment, *(b)* retraining, *(c)* interviewing and *(d)* redundancy in each police authority area. [66822]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The management of policing resources—including the numbers of police staff employed and the associated costs—is a matter for individual chief constables and their police authorities.

Information on the number of dismissals and voluntary resignations of police staff (excluding police community support officers and designated officers) by police force area as at 31 March 2010 is set out in the table. Compulsory redundancies are contained within dismissals and voluntary redundancies are contained within voluntary resignations. The Home Office does not collect figures specifically for the number of non-uniformed staff in each police authority area that are required to reapply for their position and have been asked to retrain for posts formerly undertaken by uniformed officers.

Information on the costs of managing changes to contracts for non-uniformed staff, or redundancy costs is not collected centrally. Redundancy (and other) costs are included within the CIPFA Police Service Statistics publication, available via

www.cipfastats.net

although police forces do not report this information separately from some other areas of expenditure. No estimate of any future costs of redundancies in each police authority area has been made centrally, since this is a matter for individual chief constables and their police authorities.

Number of dismissals and voluntary resignations of police staff (excluding police community support officers and designated officers), by police force area, as at 31 March 2010[1]

	Police staff	
	Dismissals	*Voluntary resignations*
Avon and Somerset	7	93
Bedfordshire	12	34
Cambridgeshire	6	90
Cheshire	5	74
Cleveland	3	29
Cumbria	21	19
Derbyshire	6	83
Devon and Cornwall	6	71
Dorset	0	38
Durham	4	36
Dyfed-Powys	1	28
Essex	14	112
Gloucestershire	2	22
Greater Manchester	7	169
Gwent	1	31
Hampshire	7	113
Hertfordshire	28	65
Humberside	8	51
Kent	12	146
Lancashire	18	55
Leicestershire	8	79
Lincolnshire	2	54
London, City of	0	16
Merseyside	5	72
Metropolitan Police	38	309
Norfolk	32	49
Northamptonshire	12	67
Northumbria	4	96
North Wales	5	13
North Yorkshire	14	81
Nottinghamshire	15	59
South Wales	4	55

Number of dismissals and voluntary resignations of police staff (excluding police community support officers and designated officers), by police force area, as at 31 March 2010[1]

	Police staff	
	Dismissals	*Voluntary resignations*
South Yorkshire	1	54
Staffordshire	49	32
Suffolk	4	41
Surrey	56	158
Sussex	2	127
Thames Valley	26	179
Warwickshire	0	11
West Mercia	6	91
West Midlands	6	133
West Yorkshire	23	96
Wiltshire	3	60
Total	478	3,288

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Health

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce an annual basic fitness test for police officers. [67875]

James Brokenshire: Tom Winsor has indicated he will be looking at fitness testing for police officers in part 2 of his Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, will consider his recommendation when he presents this in January 2012.

Police: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police authority in Wales in each of the last five years; and what the planned complement was in each authority in each of those years. [67847]

James Brokenshire: The latest available information in the following table shows police officer strength in Wales, by police force area, 2006 to 2010, as at 31 March (full-time equivalents). The planned complement in each authority is a matter for individual police forces and authorities.

Police officer strength in Wales, by police force area, 2006-10 as at 31 March (full-time equivalents)[1]

Wales	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Dyfed-Powys	1,194	1,190	1,194	1,197	1,195
Gwent	1,467	1,493	1,487	1,438	1,437
North Wales	1,634	1,608	1,579	1,586	1,590
South Wales	3,303	3,336	3,244	3,146	3,148
Wales	7,599	7,627	7,503	7,367	7,369

[1] The table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Private Detectives: Regulation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures govern the supervision and regulation of the private investigation industry. [66075]

Lynne Featherstone: There is no current licensing regime for private investigators. The Private Security Industry Act 2001 contains provisions for the regulation by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) of individuals conducting private investigations. We are currently considering whether these provisions should be brought into force.

The Government announced last October that there will be a phased transition by the end of 2013 from the SIA to a new independent regulatory regime for the private security industry, which will place a greater focus on licensing businesses. Any regulation of private investigators which is brought into force before then will be included in the transition to the new regime.

Private Investigators: Licensing

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what licensing regime applies to private investigators. [66225]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* There is no current licensing regime for private investigators. The Private Security Industry Act 2001 contains provisions for the regulation by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) of individuals conducting private investigations. We are currently considering whether these provisions should be brought into force.

The Government announced last October that there will be a phased transition by the end of 2013 from the SIA to a new independent regulatory regime for the private security industry, which will place a greater focus on licensing businesses. Any regulation of private investigators which is brought into force before then will be included in the transition to the new regime.

Theft: Metals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of scrap metal theft. [66634]

James Brokenshire: The Government are concerned at the extent of metal theft and the serious impact it can have on the national infrastructure and on local communities. The Home Office is working closely with the police (through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft Working Group) to tackle this criminality and to reduce the stolen goods market that drives it. We are currently exploring what other action can be taken to reduce metal theft.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the UK Border Agency has received on breaches of data protection from *(a)* UK residents, *(b)* persons held in detention and *(c)* overseas applicants for visas since its inception. [67745]

Damian Green: The Agency currently receives approximately 25,000 subject access requests per year for personal information under section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Since 2009, the Agency has received 166 complaints made to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) relating to the Data Protection Act. These complaints have been broken down into years;

2009: 53

2010: 91

2011: 22

The ICO recently published the total number of breaches of the Data Protection Act referred to them over the last 12 months. The Agency had 10 breaches, all of which related to subject access requests. The ICO's website can be accessed at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/how_we_comply/disclosure_log/201107.aspx

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people started an apprenticeship in the first nine months of academic year *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2010-11 in each parliamentary constituency in England; [66830]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 18, *(b)* 19 to 24 and *(c)* 25 years and over started an apprenticeship in academic year (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2011-12 in each constituency in England. [66831]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I have made provisional data showing apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency and age for the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year available in the Libraries of the House. Data for 2010/11 are the latest year for which provisional data are available.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people started an apprenticeship in each parliamentary constituency in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [66832]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I have made final full year data showing apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency for 2009/10 available in the Libraries of the House.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the factors contributing to the difference in the number of *(a)* additional 25+ apprenticeship starts and *(b)* 16-18 and 19-24 apprenticeship starts in the first three quarters of 2010-11. [67902]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Apprenticeships are demand led; we do not plan our apprenticeships places or starts by age group. There are a number of factors that contribute to the number of apprenticeship starts including the current climate in the economy, the demand made from employers to employ apprentices, and the age and employment background of the various demographic groups applying for Apprenticeships places.

In previous years there was a limit placed on the number of apprenticeship places for those aged 25 and above. In the current academic year, 2010/11, this limit has been removed. As a result, demand from this large cohort has been strong, leading to an increase in the number of apprentices aged over 25 above overall growth across the programme. The increase in starts at 16-18 is in line with the number expected to implement the Government's strategy to raise the participation age[1].

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

[1] For the first nine months of 2010/11 there were 326,700 apprenticeship starts made up of:

Under 19: 102,900 (31.5%)

19-24: 102,800 (31.5%)

25+: 121,000 (37.0 %).

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Apprentices: Females

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage more women and girls to take up apprenticeships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics sectors. [67891]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service is working with the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and other key stakeholders to develop a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) strategy encouraging the development and take-up of STEM apprenticeships.

One of the aims of this strategy is to articulate and raise awareness of career opportunities that are available to all suitable candidates.

The Department also funds a number of programmes which encourage people from a diverse range of backgrounds, including women and girls, to understand the excitement and importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in their lives, including STEMNET and its 27,000 strong cohort of STEM ambassadors.

Departmental Advertising

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered advertising his Department's business growth initiatives on documentation issued by HM Revenue and Customs. [67274]

Mr Prisk: The Government published their Plan for Growth, alongside Budget 2011, which can be found at:

www.bis.gov.uk/growth

and are focused on implementation of the commitments.

Much of Government, including HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), increasingly provides information and services online, and less through more costly paper-based communication. Communication of Government's activity to support growth is being undertaken through a range of approaches, including: engaging directly with businesses and indirectly, using business representative bodies; through websites including www.bis.Gov.uk/growth; through Government's delivery partners such as HMRC; and through press releases, for example of open consultations on proposed legislation.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66603]

Mr Hayes: The policy of the Department is to consider, on a case-by-case basis, the inclusion of apprenticeships or other training requirements where it is appropriate and relevant to the contract and consistent with value for money. The Department is also establishing a Ministerial Apprenticeships Champions Group to promote the apprenticeships agenda across Government, including opportunities to work with prime contractors and suppliers in the supply chain to support training and apprenticeships.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66605]

Mr Hayes: The Department does not hold information on the number of apprenticeships created directly through contracts in each of the past three years.

Departmental Offices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 404W, on departmental offices, what the location is of each of his Department's local offices; and what the location is of each team in areas spanning more than one administrative region. [67521]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: BIS local teams are located in the following places:

East Midlands—Nottingham

London and East—Cambridge and London

North West—Manchester

South Central and West—Guildford, Plymouth and Bristol

West Midlands—Birmingham

Yorkshire Humber and North East—Leeds (YH) and Gateshead (NE)

The teams are all based in BIS or BIS Agency premises. London and East, South Central and West and Yorkshire Humber and North East all have more than one location, in order to provide effective coverage.

Further Education: Pay

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has provided guidance to further education colleges on pay restraint for *(a)* employees and *(b)* executives. [65850]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 July 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I wrote to vice chancellors and principals on 26 May last year concerning the Government's plans to rebuild the economy and build sustainable growth. In this letter we said:

> "We are expecting BIS and all its Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and Agency partner organisations to apply restraint to all aspects of pay and bonuses with a lead being given by senior staff".

The full letter is available on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/c/cable-and-willetts-to-vice-chancellors-and-principals.pdf

However, the Government are not the employer of FE staff and cannot intervene in decisions made by colleges with respect to them. Colleges are self-governing, independent institutions and, as such, they are responsible for their own terms and conditions, including pay and workforce modelling. It is therefore a matter for each FE college principal and governing body to decide how best to maintain the delivery of high-quality provision to their learners at a time of budgetary pressure.

High Street Review

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what dates meetings with *(a)* micro businesses, *(b)* small businesses and *(c)* medium-sized businesses (i) have taken and (ii) are due to take place as part of the independent review of the future of the high street; [65907]

(2) what the name is of each *(a)* firm, *(b)* local authority representative, *(c)* third sector organisation and *(d)* other stakeholder consulted as part of the independent review of the future of the high street; [65908]

(3) how many visits, meetings, engagements and other events as part of the independent review of the future of the high street have *(a)* taken place and *(b)* been arranged; what the (i) date and (ii) venue of each such event was or is; who was or has been invited to each such event; and how many such events Mary Portas (A) has attended and (B) plans to attend. [65910]

Mr Davey: This is an independent review. It is for Mary Portas to determine the extent and nature of her engagement with stakeholders. Last month Mary Portas visited the town centres of Rugby and Sparkbrook as part of a programme of stakeholder engagement she will undertake across England as part of her review.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the prospects for the UK automotive industry; and if he will make a statement. [66482]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* We have no plans to make a formal assessment of the viability of the UK automotive industry. We work closely with the automotive industry, for example the Automotive Council, to ensure we are aware of the key issues for the industry.

Overseas Trade: Sudan

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on trade restrictions in Sudan. [61380]

Mr Prisk: I have had no discussions with my US counterparts regarding trade restrictions in Sudan.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list for each regional development agency (RDA), all previously approved projects that have since been halted or cancelled as a result of the Government's decision to end RDA contributions to match funding for bids to the European Regional Development Fund. [65301]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Department only holds information on Regional Development Agency projects over £10 million for which central Government approval was required. None of these projects have been halted or cancelled.

Retail Trade: Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made in developing a retail code of practice on retailing to children; what recent discussions he has had with the British Retail Consortium on this issue; what the outcome of these discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [63119]

Mr Prisk: The report to Government from Reg Bailey, 'Letting Children be Children', on the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood published on 6 June 2011, recommended that retailers, alongside their trade associations, should develop and comply with a voluntary code of good practice for all aspects of retailing to children and that the British Retail Consortium (BRC) should continue its work in this area as a matter of urgency and encourage non-BRC members to sign up to its code.

The Government welcome the report, which is consistent with their principles of better regulation that encourage voluntary action by business as an alternative to Government intervention. The BRC has already published a new set of guidelines on the responsible retailing of children's clothes. We consider this to be an excellent example of how industry can respond positively to public feeling.

BIS Ministers have had no recent discussion with the BRC on this issue. The Government will, however, be proactive in monitoring progress by businesses and industry to implement the Bailey report recommendations, commencing with a roundtable on 27 June 2011, chaired by the Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), who has responsibility for children and families.

Skills Funding Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what savings he expects to achieve from the planned reduction in the Skills Funding Agency's budget. [67078]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The information is as follows.

Programme budget

The Skills Funding Agency's programme budget is planned to reduce from £3,894 million in 2010-11 to £3,026 million by the end of the spending review period (2014-15) resulting in an expected annual saving by the end of the spending review period of £868 million (22.3% of baseline budget), and total planned programme savings over the four-year spending review period of £1,860 million.

Administration budget

The Skills Funding Agency's administration budget is planned to reduce from £126 million in 2010-11 to £85 million by the end of the spending review period (2014-15) resulting in an expected annual saving by the end of the spending review period of £41 million (33% of baseline budget), and total planned administration budget saving over the four-year spending review period is £120 million.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and Ministers in the Department for Transport to discuss the bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project between May 2010 and June 2011. [65433]

Mr Davey: Ministers are not allowed to discuss the details of individual bids for contracts before they are awarded. The Invitation to Tender produced in 2008 specified the evaluation criteria by which bids for the Thameslink contract would be judged.

The Secretaries of State for Transport and for Business, Innovation and Skills have jointly written to the Prime Minister outlining our plan for the Growth Review to fully explore the opportunity to take a more strategic approach to major public procurement.

Vocational Training: Injuries

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* serious injuries and *(b)* fatalities of learners placed on courses or apprenticeships were reported by the Skills Funding Agency in each year since 2000. [67077]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The number of serious injuries and fatalities of learners placed on courses or apprenticeships reported to the Skills Funding Agency is as follows:

April to March	*Fatalities*	*Reportable injuries*
2002-03	4	[1]—
2003-04	2	[1]—
2004-05	2	583
2005-06	1	755
2006-07	2	611
2007-08	2	636
2008-09	0	581
2009-10	0	[2]—
2010-11	1	[2]—

[1] Complete data is not available. [2] The information is not available within the timeframe we have been given

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Artists

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official war artists have been attached to military units based in Afghanistan since 2003. [67082]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Attachments of war artists to units deploying to Afghanistan are approved alongside media and similar personnel and it is not possible to differentiate them in our records.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on arrangements for the repatriation of deceased servicemen and women via Brize Norton; and if he will make a statement. [65234]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has received in the region of 200 pieces of correspondence from members of the public and Parliament about the arrangements for the repatriation of fallen service personnel.

The Secretary of State for Defence announced on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 11WS, that repatriation ceremonies would move to RAF Brize Norton and in anticipation of this, the RAF has taken great care in planning and building the facilities at the base. A new £3 million repatriation facility has been deliberately sited on the south side of the airfield, to give families the best possible view of the aircraft on approach and landing while bringing their loved ones home. I have visited RAF Brize Norton to assure myself that the plans are appropriate and fitting for the families, who remain our priority. A gate near to the Repatriation Centre is also being refurbished and renamed as 'Britannia Gate' and is to be dedicated for the use of repatriating fallen service personnel.

Oxfordshire county council, in determining the route to be taken from the base with Thames Valley police, has also carefully considered the needs of the families and members of the public and is constructing a memorial garden along Norton Way, as well as providing parking facilities. These new arrangements will give members of the public the opportunity to pay their own personal tribute as they have done in the past.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department receives any financial contributions from the United States for use of the sovereign bases in Cyprus. [67703]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* A United States Air Force detachment is based at RAF Akrotiri. They are charged for the use of buildings and the utilities they consume. Other US forces who use the sovereign base areas for one-off purposes are charged on a case by case basis.

Defence: Manpower

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the impact of the Strategic Defence and Security Review on the number of people employed in the defence industry. [64955]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has not made any overall assessment of the effects that the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will have on the number of people employed in the defence industry in the United Kingdom. The overall impact of the SDSR on the defence industry is not yet clear, as many changes, such as re-negotiation of several major contracts, is still under way.

Defence: Procurement

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the monetary value was of urgent operational requirements made by each of the armed forces in each of the last five years; [66702]

(2) how much was spent on urgent operational requirements for *(a)* fuel, *(b)* munitions, *(c)* equipment, *(d)* upgrades, *(e)* maintenance and *(f)* transport in each of the last five years. [66704]

Peter Luff: The urgent operational requirement (UOR) process is specific to equipment procurement programmes and does not contribute toward, for example, expenditure on fuel or maintenance. The total approved funding through the UOR process in each of the last five financial years (FY) was £790 million for FY 2006-07, £1,550 million for FY 2007-08, £1,400 million for FY 2008-09, £840 million for FY 2009-10 and £1,130 million for FY 2010-11. Expenditure is not recorded separately by armed service and certain programmes may provide equipment for more than one.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66613]

Peter Luff: Table 1.11 'Estimated Defence Expenditure Outturn in UK by Industry Group' in 'UK Defence Statistics' estimates the amount of money the Ministry of Defence (MOD) spends directly with the UK industry broken down by industrial group.

The following table taken from Table 1.11 shows the latest available statistics, for 2008-09.

		£million (ex. VAT) *2008-09*
Total		18,590
A, B	Agriculture, Fishing and Mining	—
C	Manufacturing, excluding those industries itemised below	2,390
	Weapons & Ammunition	1,030
	Data Processing Equipment	100
	Other Electrical Engineering	220
	Electronics	920
	Precision Instruments	540
	Motor Vehicles & Parts	490
	Shipbuilding & Repairing	1,250
	Aircraft & Spacecraft	2,480
D, E	Electricity, Gas & Water	340
F	Construction	1,680
G	Wholesale, Retail & Repair of Motor Vehicles	330
H ,I, J	Hotels & Restaurants	160
	Transport via Railways	90
	Other Land Transport (incl. via pipelines)	60
	Water, Air and Auxiliary/freight supply transportation	600
	Post & Courier Services	10
	Telecommunications	190
K, L, M, N, O	Financial Services, Business Activities, Education, Health, & Other	
P, Q, R, S, T	Service Activities excluding those industries itemised as follows[1, 2]	2,490
	Real Estate & Renting	2,030
	Computer Services	1,180

[1] Includes MOD payments to AWE Management Ltd, who manage the Atomic Weapons Establishment on behalf of the MOD under a Government-owned/contractor-operated arrangement.

[2] The quality of data available for the service industries is insufficient to identify these SICs separately.

UK Defence Statistics 2011 will be published in September 2011 and will contain the figures for 2009-10.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67576]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 367W.

Departmental Travel

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* rail, *(b)* road and *(c)* air travel by staff of the Met Office in the last 12 months. [66922]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure incurred by Met Office staff on travel in the last 12 months, covering the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 is shown in the following table.

Expenditure incurred between 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

Travel by:	*Spend (£)*
Rail	476,982
Road	725,167
Air	585,517

Harrier Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Harrier aircraft had the capability to carry *(a)* Brimstone and *(b)* Storm Shadow missiles on 12 May 2011. [66656]

Nick Harvey: *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Harrier aircraft was withdrawn from service on 15 December 2010. Prior to its withdrawal, it had an operational emergency clearance to operate Baseline Brimstone. In order for the Harrier to use Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone, we would have had to extend the provision for the weapon and conduct a full trials programme on Harrier. Although capable of carrying Storm Shadow, Harrier was not cleared to do so when it was withdrawn from service.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the cost to his Department of Joint Strike Fighter per aircraft; and when he expects the aircraft to be delivered. [66951]

Peter Luff: The cost of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) will be known at its main investment decision point. Publishing any details prior to this point would prejudice the commercial interests of MOD. The UK's first JSF is due to be delivered in 2012 to allow the UK to train pilots prior to operational test.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel have been operating in the *(a)* landmass, *(b)* airspace and *(c)* territorial waters of Libya on each day since 18 March 2011; [67635]

(2) how many service personnel of each rank in each armed service have been eligible to receive the operational allowance for taking part in operations within the *(a)* landmass, *(b)* airspace and *(c)* territorial waters of Libya since 18 March 2011. [67638]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel at each rank in each service have been operating within the landmass, airspace and territorial waters of Libya consistent with eligibility for the operational allowance since 18 March 2011; and how many are operating within that space at present. [67700]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The breakdown of service personnel eligible for the Ellamy operational allowance since 18 March is not held in the format requested. The breakdown by individual service is being withheld as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed services. The tri-service breakdown by rank as at 15 July 2011 is provided in the following table:

	Tri-service equivalent ranks	*Total*
Officers		
OF4	Commander / Lieutenant Colonel / Wing Commander	4
OF3	Lieutenant Commander / Major / Squadron Leader	8
OF2	Lieutenant / Captain / Flight Lieutenant	33
Other ranks		
OR7	Chief Petty Officer / Staff Sergeant / Flight Sergeant / Chief Technician	1
OR6	Petty Officer /Sergeant / Sergeant	2
OR4	Leading Rate / Corporal / Corporal	1
OR2	Able Seaman 1st Class / Private (Classes 1-3) / Junior Technician / Senior Aircraftman	3

The numbers can vary, for example, as naval units move into and out of Libyan territorial waters.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of extending eligibility for the operational allowance to service personnel operating within the landmass, airspace and territorial waters of Libya. [67701]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* It will not be possible to answer this question definitively until after the operation is complete as the numbers of personnel involved in Operation Ellamy may vary considerably day to day. The extension of the operational allowance (OA) to personnel on Operation Ellamy, based on the OA rate of £29.02 per day, is estimated to cost in the region of £90,000 per month per hundred qualifying personnel.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have participated in Operation Ellamy since 18 March 2011; and how many are presently participating in the operation. [67709]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Information on the number of service personnel who have participated in Operation Ellamy since 18 March 2011 is not readily accessible from our systems. The number of service personnel deployed overseas in support of Operation Ellamy at 0600hrs on 18 July 2001 was 2,071.

Ministerial Meetings

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since May 2010; [66058]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66059]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Statement made by the Prime Minister on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 313-4.

Piracy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French and Italian counterparts on the deployment of military personnel on commercial shipping transiting through the Horn of Africa; and whether he has any plans to deploy British military personnel on British commercial shipping. [64880]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State for Defence holds regular discussions with his French and Italian counterparts on a number of Defence issues, including counter-piracy. No specific discussions have taken place on the topic of military vessel protection detachments. We do not intend routinely to deploy British military personnel on British commercial shipping.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department project increases in aerial and liquid discharges of tritium from the defence sector in the UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges. [47135]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Paul Flynn:

In my answer of 22 March (Official Report, column 947W), I undertook to write to you to respond to your Parliamentary Question asking for the reasons for projected increases in aerial and liquid discharges of tritium from the defence sector in the UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges. I am very sorry for the delay in providing you with a substantive response; the effort to research the answer to your question proved to be very time consuming.

Aerial tritium discharges result almost entirely from the nuclear weapons programme. The predictions for 2006 onwards were based on empirical information provided by the Atomic Weapons Establishment to the Environment Agency (EA) in support of an application for a new authorisation for the disposal of radioactive waste. These predicted figures included an allowance for operational headroom over the maximum reported discharge in the previous five years of approximately 1·5 times, hence the apparent rise in future discharge figures. Even at these levels, the discharges will be significantly lower than EA limits and actual discharge levels are expected to be considerably lower.

Liquid tritium discharges arise from the nuclear weapons and nuclear propulsion programmes, as well as some historic contamination. In all cases, liquid discharge projections are based on the minimum recordable level of tritium in analysed samples so the values given are the maximum that could reasonably be expected. Again, the actual discharge levels are likely to be significantly less.

I hope this response provides the explanation that you sought.

Sri Lanka

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he had in an official capacity during his visit to Sri Lanka in July 2011. [66943]

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister during his visit to Sri Lanka. [67621]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 869W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he consulted ministerial colleagues in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office prior to his visit to Sri Lanka in July 2011. [66945]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office closely cooperate on international policy development and engagement. Given our close interest in Sri Lanka, I and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) consulted well in advance of my departure.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he promoted British foreign policy objectives during his recent visit to Sri Lanka. [67622]

Dr Fox: The United Kingdom wants to see lasting peace and security in Sri Lanka. It remains our view that for sustainable peace and economic growth Sri Lanka requires political reconciliation between all communities; accountability for human rights allegations; and the respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. I was able to build on recent engagements, including the visit in February of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt).

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he had discussions in an official capacity on *(a)* defence industry sales and *(b)* war crimes allegations concerning the Sri Lankan army during his visit to Sri Lanka in July 2011. [66944]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The United Kingdom has consistently called for an independent and credible investigation to address allegations of war crimes committed by both sides during in the conflict. During my visit I emphasised that the Sri Lankan Government should engage constructively with the UN Panel report's recommendations, and through their own Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Committee initiate credible action to address the concerns including those highlighted by the UN. Defence exports were not a topic of discussion during the visit.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the benefit arrangements are of the non-executive directors of the *(a)* Met Office and *(b)* Hydrographic Office. [66924]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office and the Hydrographic Office pay their non-executive directors an annual remuneration and reimburse their non-executive directors all reasonable expenses properly and necessarily incurred in their appointment.

Details of the remuneration and benefits for non-executive directors are disclosed in the annual report and accounts of both trading funds. Copies are placed in the Library of the House each year.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on air travel by class of travel by staff at the Hydrographic Office in the last 12 months. [66918]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure incurred by United Kingdom Hydrographic Office employees on air travel by class in the last 12 months covering the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 is shown in the following table:

Air travel by class:	*Spend (£)*
Economy	262,657
Business	464,689
Premium Economy	43,382
Total	[1]770,728

[1] All spend include VAT as provided by the Ministry of Defence's Central Booking Service, Hogg Robinson Group.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff at the *(a)* Met Office and *(b)* Hydrographic Office are entitled to use official cars. [66921]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office do not operate official cars; their staff share pooled self-drive service vehicles for business travel instead. Nine staff at the Hydrographic Office are eligible to use their single official car.

Eligibility for a staff car is currently dependent upon the nature of the duties of an appointment, and it is the responsibility of individual trading funds to identify and justify which appointments have such eligibility in accordance with central Ministry of Defence policy.

We are reviewing departmental policy on the provision of staff cars (including in our Trading Funds), taking account of the need to demonstrate value for money, provide maximum flexibility and meet our sustainable development commitments.

Staff cars are an extension of the office and give our most senior staff a more private space to work in than public transport, so they can make best use of the time they spend travelling, with appropriate security.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on hotel accommodation for staff of the *(a)* Met Office and *(b)* Hydrographic Office in the last 12 months. [66920]

Mr Robathan: Met Office spend on hotel accommodation cannot be identified separately from total spend on subsistence.

The UK Hydrographic Office spent £284,243 on hotel accommodation for employees in the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* rail, *(b)* road and *(c)* air travel by staff of the Hydrographic Office in the last 12 months. [66947]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 July 2011]*: Expenditure incurred by United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) employees on travel in the last 12 months, covering the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, is as follows:

Travel by:	*Spend (£)*
Rail	[1]36,165
Road	65,413
Air	[2]770,728

[1] This covers the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2011. [2] Air travel spend includes VAT as provided by the Ministry of Defence's central booking service, Hogg Robinson Group.

While the UKHO encourages its international partners to visit Taunton, it is often necessary for employees to travel to ensure the appropriate level of international engagement. All such travel and accommodation costs are closely scrutinised internally to ensure that it is necessary and satisfies a clear business critical need. Travel is funded from within the UKHO's operating costs. All travel is at standard class except for long haul flights over four hours. We have recently invested in additional video conferencing facilities which will be used as an alternative to travel wherever possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 August 2011

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67911]

Sir George Young: I have not flown on official business during the last 12 months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Office directly and *(b)* his Office on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67587]

Sir George Young: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, the Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr Heath), and I did not refuse any meetings with hon. or right hon. Members during November 2010.

My hon. Friend and I are always happy to meet with hon. and right hon. Members from all sides of the House.

TREASURY

Business: Loans

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to create a more competitive banking industry in order to improve the availability of loans for *(a)* consumers and *(b)* small businesses. [47955]

Mr Hoban: The Government are clear that competition drives efficiency and helps to ensure that consumers are able to access the wide range of financial products that they need.

The Independent Commission on Banking, under the Chairmanship of Sir John Vickers, has been asked to consider structural and non-structural reforms to the UK banking sector to promote competition and financial stability. The Commission will produce an interim report in April and its final report in September 2011.

On 9 February the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced a new lending commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks. As part of this commitment the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

The Government are also taking forward their plans to ensure a healthier consumer credit market through the review of Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency. The Government are also consulting on the merits of shifting responsibility for consumer credit regulation from the Office of Fair Trading to the new Financial Conduct Authority, as part of the Government's wider plans to reform the financial services regulatory framework.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* analysis and *(b)* calculations underlying his Department's estimate that the existing nuclear sector is likely to receive on average £50 million per annum to 2030 in higher wholesale electricity prices attributable to the carbon price support proposals in the Finance (No 3) Bill. [57982]

Justine Greening: The figure is based on public data and the Government's assessment of the industry, which was applied to the likely change in electricity generation capacity and changes in the wholesale price of electricity. The figure is a result of the modelled impact of the price floor on wholesale prices until the late 2020s.

Pensions

Karen Lumley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people in employment contribute to *(a)* a public and *(b)* a private pension. [67493]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

(a) In 2010, 84% of people in employment in the public sector were members of workplace pension schemes. This represents 6.2 million employee jobs.

(b) In 2010, 36% of people in employment in the private sector were members of workplace pension schemes. This represents 6.6 million employee jobs.

These estimates are from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many disabled employees of her Department are receiving support from the Access to Work programme; and what proportion of the workforce of her Department this figure represents. [64395]

Richard Benyon: Support and adjustments for disabled staff in Core DEFRA and its executive agencies are mainly funded through departmental budgets with only a small proportion of staff receiving support from the Access to Work Programme, as set out in the following table.

DEFRA/agency	*Number of staff receiving support from access to work*	*Proportion of work force (%)*
Core DEFRA	0	—
Animal Health/Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AH/VLA)	0	—
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	0	—
Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)	19	2
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	20	0.07
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	0	—

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) her Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66597]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its Executive agencies do not have a specific procurement policy that details the provision of apprenticeships or other training by its suppliers. These matters may be discussed with some suppliers in our contract meetings where these provisions may be relevant to the type of goods or services supplied but are not included in any contractual terms.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with her Department in each of the last three years. [66599]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its executive agencies do not keep central or local records on the apprenticeships created directly as a result of contracts awarded. To identify this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Bed Bugs

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many infestations of bed bugs were notified to her Department in each of the last 10 years. [65221]

Richard Benyon: The Department has not received any notifications of infestations of bed bugs.

Biodiversity

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to publish an analysis of progress against her Department's 2010 targets on biodiversity priority species and habitats in England as part of the England Biodiversity Strategy. [66727]

Richard Benyon: There are 28 priority habitats with quantitative targets set for 2010 and we will provide a report on progress against these targets by the end of 2011. DEFRA understands that member organisations of Wildlife and Countryside Link are planning a report on progress against the targets of certain priority species, also in 2011.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effects of culling badgers on the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle. [64365]

Mr Paice: The results of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) showed that badger culling, when done on a sufficient scale in a widespread, co-ordinated and efficient way, and over a sustained period of time, would reduce the incidence of bovine TB in cattle in high incidence areas.

The evidence base on the effects of culling badgers on TB incidence in cattle was recently assessed at a meeting between DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Veterinary Officer and a panel of independent experts. The key conclusions from this meeting, which includes a description of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial results and most up to date results of the ongoing post-trial analysis, were recently published on the DEFRA website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/documents/bovinetb-scientificexperts-110404.pdf

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered after testing positive for bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [64487]

Mr Paice: The number of cattle slaughtered as skin and interferon gamma test TB reactors in England was as follows:

2009—24,500

2010—24,213.

All TB reactors are regarded as infected and European and national legislation require all such animals to be slaughtered. Those cattle are then subject to post mortem examination and a proportion of them will also be sampled for laboratory culture, but this is not to prove or disprove the disease status of the animal. The primary purpose of post mortem and bacteriological culture of TB test reactors is to assess the severity of infection and identify the strain of the causative bacterium—this is useful for epidemiological investigations and helps to support subsequent outbreak control efforts. TB is a chronic and insidious infectious disease with potentially long incubation periods. In the early stages of this disease it is often not possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and due to the fastidious nature of the TB bacterium (which may be present in low numbers in the affected organs) it is not always possible to culture it from tissue samples. It is therefore wrong to consider all TB reactors that fail to disclose evidence of infection in the slaughterhouse or in the laboratory as being "false positives" or "negative for the disease".

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely savings to her Department in compensation which would not need to be paid to farmers in the next 10 years as a result of the implementation of a badger cull. [67865]

Mr Paice: Over 10 years we would expect to see savings on paying compensation to be as high as £1.6 million for a 350 sq km area.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what licences have been issued under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in the last five years; and for what purposes, including translocation and despatch and excluding the randomised badger cull trial. [67866]

Mr Paice: Statistics for licences issued by Natural England under the 1992 Act up to 30 June 2010 are on the website at:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/licences/statistics.aspx

In the five years 2006 to 2010, a total of 4,044 licences were issued by Natural England, mostly for sett interference or disturbance, for the following purposes:

Purpose	*Number of licences issued*
Prevention of serious damage	2,154
Drainage or flood defence	257
Agricultural or Forestry operations	612
Preventing the spread of disease	18
Development[1]	985
Science, Education and Conservation[2]	18

[1] Data for development licences issued in 2006 not included as Natural England does not hold information for this.

[2] Data for licences issued for Scientific, Education or Conservation purposes in 2006 and 2007 not included as Natural England does not hold information for this.

This table includes provisional statistics for the whole of 2010, and may be subject to change as records for 2010 are checked and updated.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67562]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its executive agencies have incurred no expenditure on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010.

Butterflies

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of changes in the population of butterflies in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [67014]

Richard Benyon: We work closely with Butterfly Conservation and the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to compile and publish trends in butterfly numbers. Figures on butterfly abundance are used in both our UK and England biodiversity indicator sets.

In England, the most recent indicator assessment showed long-term declines for many species up to and including the year 2009. Recently published data from Butterfly Conservation suggest that 2010 was a better year, with marked recovery for some of the scarce species, such as the Wood White or Marsh Fritillary, which appear to be benefitting from targeted conservation action. We intend to build on the successes of such actions where Government and the voluntary sector work together to secure benefits for wildlife. The recently published Natural Environment White Paper reaffirms this commitment.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of potential effects of the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on the butterfly population; and if she will make a statement. [67015]

Richard Benyon: Under European legislation, pesticide active substances are first evaluated at Community level. A key part of the process is an assessment of risks to wildlife, including pollinators. If an active substance meets the EU safety requirements, then products authorising that active substance can be authorised at member state level, taking into account that country's individual agronomic, climatic and dietary requirements.

In the UK, pesticides can only be sold or used after they have been authorised. As part of this process, the chemicals regulation directorate of the Health and Safety Executive (the Government body responsible for regulating pesticides) undertakes an assessment of the toxicity of each product and ways in which spray operators, the public or environment (including pollinators) may be exposed. The purpose being to ensure that the use of the product poses no unacceptable risks.

The assessment for neonicotinoid pesticides has concluded that provided they are used in accordance with their approved conditions of use, there is no unacceptable risk to pollinators, including butterfly and other non-target arthropod populations.

The Government would not hesitate to act should evidence emerge of an unacceptable risk. We continue to monitor research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere to see if they are relevant to the UK and participate in initiatives such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) working group on pesticides-supported project on the pesticide effects on insect pollinators.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to protect the butterfly population in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [67016]

Richard Benyon: It is difficult to differentiate between butterfly conservation in urban and rural areas as there is significant overlap and inter-play between them. However, in general, rural areas contain a greater number of specialist species and urban areas more generalist species.

Specialist species tend to be highly reliant on protection through existing designated sites. Natural England is currently reviewing all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) to ensure that the specific management requirements of specialist butterflies (and other species) are included in the conservation objectives of these sites.

Natural England's recent research ("Managing for species: Integrating the needs of England's priority species into habitat management") identified that many species of butterfly can have their conservation needs met by ensuring their requirements are integrated within urban and rural habitat management.

For butterflies on farmland, the Government are developing tools and protocols to ensure that land that is managed under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agri-environment scheme has the appropriate management options in place to provide the correct habitat niches for butterflies.

In urban areas, the Government are developing tools for developers and planners to encourage the adoption of management of habitat niches for butterflies and other species in the planning of urban green infrastructure.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme's report entitled, Final Project Report 2011; and if she will make a statement. [67064]

Richard Benyon: The collection and analysis of butterfly data through the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is a partnership project involving the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Butterfly Conservation, DEFRA and the conservation agencies across the UK. DEFRA recently published the final report from the latest phase of funding. The report concludes that while the numbers of most widespread butterfly species are comparatively stable, almost half of the more specialised butterflies (those species associated with more natural habitats) are declining. Despite this, agri-environment schemes are having a positive effect and there are some notable signs of recovery for some of these more specialist species, such as the Marsh Fritillary and the reintroduced Large Blue.

We will continue to build on these successful cases, drawing on their example of successful partnership working with Butterfly Conservation and others in the voluntary sector, to design or deliver targeted conservation action.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the possible effects of the reduction in the budget of Natural England on butterfly *(a)* monitoring schemes and *(b)* conservation projects; and if she will make a statement. [67065]

Richard Benyon: The monitoring of butterfly populations remains an important part of Natural England's work, with its partners, to develop a more integrated monitoring programme across a range of species. Natural England is contributing £15,000 this financial year towards a UK integrated monitoring project for butterflies and a further £40,000 to Butterfly Conservation for data management to support UK biodiversity commitments.

Natural England will continue to deliver and support butterfly conservation work as it has done in the past, but the emphasis will shift to habitat management as opposed to projects aimed at single species. This approach is supported by Natural England research (Managing for species: Integrating the needs of England's priority species into habitat management), which found that the most efficient and effective way to deliver butterfly conservation was usually by appropriate incorporation into habitat-based work.

Natural England will place increased emphasis on ensuring that Higher Level Stewardship agri-environment agreements with landowners and farmers contain the appropriate management options for butterflies. Natural England will also be working closely with the owners and occupiers of sites of special scientific interest, National Nature Reserves and with existing and new landscape-scale partnerships, to ensure that the conservation needs of species are incorporated into the conservation objectives and habitat management for these areas.

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from her Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66757]

Richard Benyon: It is estimated that from the office estate for June 2010, DEFRA non-weather corrected emissions amounted to some 11,034 tonnes carbon dioxide.

DEFRA is still collating and validating its emission data for June 2011.

Between 14 May 2010 and 13 May 2011, DEFRA delivered a reduction of 11.6% in carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate. Under the Green Government Commitments, it is now committed to deliver a 25% reduction in green house gases by 2014-15.

Carbon Emissions: Landfill

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce emissions of methane from landfill. [66434]

Richard Benyon: The Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, sets out a number of actions targeting all levels of the waste hierarchy to reduce the amount of biodegradable material going to landfill. This can be done by preventing the waste arising in the first place, or diverting waste away from landfill into recycling or recovery operations. Measures include continued increases in landfill tax, and a commitment to consult on the restriction of wood waste going to landfill. The Government will also give further consideration to other landfill restrictions.

Additionally, we plan a number of steps to increase the capture of methane emitted from landfill sites. This work is being carried out together with the Environment Agency and industry. It includes building the evidence base for how much and where methane generation is occurring in landfill, continuing to promote best landfill gas management practice by operators to meet obligations under the EU landfill directive, and seeking opportunities to promote new technologies that could capture even smaller quantities of methane than is currently possible.

Carbon Emissions: Waste

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce emissions from the incineration of wastes without energy recovery. [66433]

Richard Benyon: All incineration plants are obliged to meet the stringent emission requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). DEFRA has no plans to impose additional restrictions beyond those already required by the directive and, for those with an incineration capacity exceeding three tonnes per hour, the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (2008/1/EC).

Cattle: Transport

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* origin and *(b)* destination was of each consignment of calves shipped from Ramsgate on 16 June 2011; how many consignments had journeys exceeding 18 hours; and in respect of how many of the consignments with journeys exceeding 18 hours the animals were unloaded and rested in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. [62132]

Mr Paice: On 16 June, three consignments of calves were exported from Ramsgate to destinations in France. These consignments originated from Wales, the north, and south-west of England.

Each consignment was accompanied by a journey log approved by Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA). To be approved, each journey, as described, would need to meet the rules on journey times and rest periods laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005.

There is an obligation under this legislation for transporters to return the completed journey log following completion of the journey so that the actual journey details can be checked against those same details in the original approved journey log. The AHVLA will investigate further if there are deviations, suggesting a possible infringement of the legislation. If subsequent investigations confirm that this is the case, the AHVLA will take the necessary proportionate enforcement action against the transporter.

Transporters must return journey logs to the AHVLA Welfare in Transport team within one month of the completion of each journey. In this particular case, as the deadline has now passed and the journey logs have yet to be returned, the AHVLA is pursuing this matter with the transporter.

Coastal Areas: Environment Protection

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Crown Estate and *(b)* Welsh Ministers on the protection of sand beaches from erosion attributable to sand dredging. [67125]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials are in regular contact with the Crown Estate and officials of the Welsh Assembly Government about the operation of marine licensing, including the licensing of the extraction of marine sand and gravel, the most recent being March and this month respectively.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues on measures to protect sand beaches from excessive erosion attributable to sand dredging. [67126]

Richard Benyon: The UK Marine Policy Statement, adopted in March, provides the policy objectives and framework for the development of marine plans, and sets out the issues for consideration in all decisions capable of affecting the marine area. In relation to aggregates, marine plan authorities should contribute to the overarching Government objective of securing an adequate and continuing supply to the UK market and should base their decisions on sustainability criteria. A marine licence or other regulatory approval to dredge should only be issued if the decision maker is content that the proposed dredging is environmentally acceptable.

Physical impacts from marine aggregate dredging are tightly regulated to ensure that only localised impacts occur, and are primarily limited to changes in local bathymetry and water depth within dredged areas. Although concerns are often expressed that aggregate extraction leads to coastal erosion, the licensing process excludes dredging activities from areas where this could occur. All evidence submitted for consideration as part of the licensing process is technically scrutinised on behalf of the decision maker.

There is an extensive evidence base on the effects of marine aggregates dredging developed under the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

Community Composting

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on community composting; and what plans she has to expand its takeup. [66428]

Richard Benyon: Our recent review of waste policy reaffirmed our commitment to encouraging community composting; we think it can be good for the local environment, local communities and the economy. The Government's role is not to make the decisions about what are the best waste management options in particular circumstances: that is for local communities, but we provide a range of support to help inform those decisions. To that end, we support WRAP's work in developing markets for compost and recognise the role of the British Standard BSI PAS 100 in giving confidence that the compost produced is safe, reliable and high quality.

We support community composting by providing exemptions from the need for an environmental permit for smaller-scale composting operations that pose little risk to human health and the environment. We have also commissioned research into the health risks from bio-aerosols generated during composting. This will help reduce uncertainties about the level of risk posed by bio-aerosols and odours at composting sites and ensure regulatory controls are applied proportionately. We have also established a framework for excepting certain small-scale and community composting projects from the need to comply with the requirements of the Animal By-Products Regulations where there is clearly no risk to public or animal health.

Countryside

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department plans to provide to national countryside week in each of the next four financial years. [66363]

Richard Benyon: National countryside week was launched by the Prince's Countryside Fund on 11 July. The fund is intended to improve the sustainability of British farming and rural communities; reconnect consumers with countryside issues; and support farming and rural crisis charities. The fund works by participating companies making a donation and providing in-kind support; as the fund works with businesses rather than Government, DEFRA cannot provide direct support to the fund, although it supports its overall aims.

Crops: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the retention of regional research hubs for groupings of crops. [64813]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not fund regional research hubs for groupings of crops. There are no plans to establish such hubs. Crop research is undertaken within research institutes and university departments across the UK.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions she has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67916]

Richard Benyon: During the last 12 months the Secretary of State has made the following journeys by budget airline or in economy class on official departmental business.

Date	*Journey*	*Airline*	*Purpose*
2010			
19 September	Single: London to Brussels	Brussels Airlines	Informal Agriculture Council
25 September	Single: Amsterdam to Heathrow	British Airways	Return to London from UN General Assembly
14-15 October	Return: London to Luxembourg	Lux Air	Environment Council
31 October	Single: Nagoya to Shanghai	China Eastern	Shanghai Expo
2011			
21-22 January	Return: London to Berlin	British Airways	Berlin Green Week
20-21 February	Return: Birmingham to Brussels	Brussels Air	Agriculture Council
13-15 March	Return: Birmingham to Brussels	Brussels Air	Environment Council
24-26 March	Return: London to Budapest	Swiss International	Informal Environment Council
29-31 May	Return: Birmingham to Budapest	Swiss International	Informal Ag meeting
21-22 June	Return: Birmingham to Luxembourg	Lux Air	Environment Council
10-11 July	Return: Birmingham to Gdansk	Lufthansa (out) Wizz Air (return)[1]	Environment Council

[1] Budget airline

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in her Department in the last 12 months. [62066]

Richard Benyon: Over the last 12 months, the Department's special advisers claimed £88.29 in expenses for reimbursement of mileage accumulated during departmental business. The Department has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many invoices her Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55868]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Fair Payment guidance relates to payments to construction suppliers and DEFRA and its Executive agencies do not record centrally whether a supplier is a Tier 1 construction supplier.

To identify all payments for construction that fall within the Government's Fair Payment guidance for the core Department and its Executive agencies would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many invoices received by her Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62490]

Richard Benyon: Invoices received from suppliers and paid on time and late in the period May 2010 to May 2011 for the Department and executive agencies are as laid out in the following tables.

Core Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Period	Invoices paid on time	Invoices paid late	Value paid late (£)	Percentage paid late
May 2010	4,020	34	61,508	0.85
June 2010	3,726	5	5,557	0.13
Jul 2010	3,524	7	53,598	0.20
August 2010	3,431	6	71,176	0.17
September 2010	3,239	4	18,642	0.12
October 2010	3,647	23	113,975	0.63
November 2010	3,042	3	28,800	0.10
December 2010	2,839	4	63,645	0.14.
January 2011	2,871	4	15,357	0.14
February 2011	3,279	9	48,641	0.27
March 2011	3,765	7	65,180	0.19
April 2011	2,641	14	184,780	0.53
May 2011	2,668	5	17,797	0.19

Note:

Includes all invoices received including those received from the DEFRA network and OGDs. Paid late based on:

when paid outside of supplier terms as recorded;

or where payment did not meet prompt payment initiatives for immediate term suppliers—this was five days with effect from 1 October 2011 and 10 days prior to that date.

Rural Payments Agency

Period	Invoices paid on time	Invoices paid late	Value paid late (£)	Percentage paid late
May 2010	247	11	Unavailable	7.14
June 2010	225	2	Unavailable	0.88
July 2010	220	3	Unavailable	1.35
August 2010	247	0	Unavailable	0
September 2010	208	2	Unavailable	0.95
October 2010	207	1	Unavailable	0.48
November 2010	146	1	Unavailable	0.68
December 2010	139	4	Unavailable	2.11
January 2011	219	1	Unavailable	0.45
February 2011	153	3	Unavailable	1.92
March 2011	216	1	Unavailable	0.46
April 2011	148	1	Unavailable	0.67
May 2011	148	0	Unavailable	0

Note:

Based on all valid supplier invoices and the payment target is 80% within five days.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Period	Invoices paid on time	Invoices paid late	Value paid late (£)	Percentage paid late
May 2010	83	8	21,268.78	8.79
June 2010	95	10	28,070.97	9.52
July 2010	69	13	131,624.00	15.85
August 2010	53	21	29,766.20	28.38
September 2010	65	11	29,281.15	14.47
October 2010	53	18	490,282.09	25.35
November 2010	.87	8	16,883.30	8.42
December 2010	73	4	10,737.29	5.19
January 2011	84	5	235,726.79	5.62
February 2011	71	7	13,606.44	8.97
March 2011	119	13	17,626.43	9.85
April 2011	81	2	232,395.79	2.41
May 2011	80	15	71,103.86	15.79

Note:

Since 1 May 2010, the VMD have worked to the target of paying 80% of undisputed supplier invoices within five working days. All invoices in the "paid late" column were paid after five working days and include invoices that may have been disputed for some time before payment.

CEFAS

Period	Invoices paid on time	Invoices paid late	Value paid late (£)	Percentage paid late
May 2010	635	518	1,083,246	44.93
June 2010	650	307	427,700	32.08
July 2010	849	152	516,108	15.18
August 2010	624	102	639,566	14.05
September 2010	710	91	588,463	11.36
October 2010	472	376	3,096,115	44.34
November 2010	672	225	561,075	25.08
December 2010	253	177	500,726	41.16
January 2011	560	406	1,204,617	42.03
February 2011	674	181	1,400,970	21.17

CEFAS

Period	*Invoices paid on time*	*Invoices paid late*	*Value paid late (£)*	*Percentage paid late*
March 2011	832	335	1,513,212	28.71
April 2011	256	293	1,711,320	53.37
May 2011	324	399	575,892	55.19

Notes:

1. The figures provided exclude any payments made to staff. Includes all invoices received including those received from the DEFRA network and OGDs.
2. Paid late is defined as where payment did not meet prompt payment initiatives for immediate terms. This was five days with effect from 1 October 2010 and 10 days prior to that date.
3. In April 2010 CEFAS went live with a new finance system which impacted routine payment cycles.

Animal Health

Period	*Invoices paid on time*	*Invoices paid late*	*Value paid late (£)*	*Percentage paid late*
May 2010	137	744	1,941,414	84
June 2010	253	897	2,907,024	78
July 2010	450	381	1,054,239	45.8
August 2010	464	387	963,308	45.5
September 2010	246	385	1,169,511	61.01
October 2010	796	1,066	1,519,092	57.3
November 2010	593	1	2,467	0.17
December 2010	467	0	0	0.00
January 2011	490	0	0	0.00
February 2011	250	6	18,519	1.1
March 2011	682	17	46,592	2.43
April 2011	479	20	12,462	4.0
May 2011	509	5	36,896	1.0

Notes:

1. Based on the Government's five day prompt payment performance guidance and includes all supplier invoices. Excludes all payments to staff and other bodies. Target is 80% paid on time.
2. System issues prevented the implementation of the five day policy until November 2010. However, in the period May 2010 to October 2010, payment performance was 99.8% or better, based on meeting contractual supplier terms.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Period	*Invoices paid on time*	*Invoices paid late*	*Value paid late (£)*	*Percentage paid late*
May 2010	1,912	211	417,374	9.94
June 2010	2,250	326	561,866	12.66
July 2010	2,353	225	239,705	8.73
August 2010	2,168	221	175,096	9.25
September 2010	1,972	147	291,598	6.94
October 2010	1,696	523	846,871	23.57
November 2010	1,741	458	655,831	20.83
December 2010	1,400	511	678,357	26.74
January 2011	1,352	657	1,210,229	32.70
February 2011	1,693	540	4,646,573	24.18
March 2011	2,356	620	4,657,810	20.83
April 2011	1,050	688	1,338,250	39.59
May 2011	1,186	553	754,512	31.80

Note:

VLA target was 10 days at the start of the year, but this was then changed to five days from October. System changes were suspended with the implementation of the move of financial systems to the DEFRA Network Shared Services.

FERA

Period	*Invoices paid on time*	*Invoices paid late*	*Value paid late (£)*	*Percentage paid late*
May 2010	1,508	541	Unavailable	26.40
June 2010	1,594	681	Unavailable	29.93
July 2010	1,869	461	Unavailable	19.79
August 2010	1,499	411	Unavailable	21.52
September 2010	1,599	432	Unavailable	21.27
October 2010	1,687	430	Unavailable	20.31
November 2010	1,640	530	Unavailable	24.42
December 2010	1,610	415	Unavailable	20.49
January 2011	1,178	546	Unavailable	31.67
February 2011	1,894	356	Unavailable	15.82
March 2011	1,898	864	Unavailable	31.28
April 2011	1,500	568	Unavailable	27.47
May 2011	1,120	849	Unavailable	43.12

Note:

FERA is unable to separate supplier invoices/payments from other invoices/payments. Paid late is defined where payment did not meet prompt payment initiatives for immediate terms. This was five days with effect from 1 October 2010 and 10 days prior to that date.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has issued any guidance on the generation of low-carbon energy on estates owned by her Department. [65457]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not issued any guidance on the generation of low-carbon energy on estates owned by her Department.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 10W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67931]

Richard Benyon: EU legislation dictates that all major public sector procurement requirements are advertised in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) and tenders from all EU countries must be considered. This ruling limits DEFRA's ability to procure directly from the UK, but the Department can confirm that it has purchased low carbon generation technologies from the following UK companies: Proven Wind Turbines (Scotland); Quiet Revolution Wind Turbines (Wales); Solar Century Solar Voltaic Panels (England); Talbots Biomass Boilers (England).

Consultants

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on external consultants as part of the recent consultation on bovine tuberculosis. [65040]

Mr Paice: No money was spent on external consultants as part of the recent consultation on bovine tuberculosis.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 63W, on departmental legal opinion, how many prosecutions were brought as a result of the work of her Department's legal team in the last five years; and how many convictions arose from such prosecutions. [61187]

Richard Benyon: The number of prosecutions brought as a result of the work of the Department's legal team in the last four years (2007-08 to 2010-11) is 151. The total number of convictions arising from these prosecutions is 93.

The answer is for the last four years rather than five because the information for 2006-07 is not readily available and the cost to obtain it would be disproportionate.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66569]

Richard Benyon: Official items lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows losses reported in DEFRA and reporting network bodies (Animal Health, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Commission for Rural Communities, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Natural England) during the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.

Description	*Quantity*
Blackberry	8
Laptop computer	25
Desktop computer	3
Projector	3

Individual replacement costs are not recorded centrally, but all the items listed above would each have had an estimated value of £100 or over at the time of loss.

All reported incidents are investigated and if theft is suspected the matter is reported to the police. Staff are advised to report losses of equipment while out of the office to the police directly as well as to their Security Team.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67546]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The departmental policy, including for executive agencies, is not to provide any hospitality for staff. This includes refreshments at staff meetings or staff working lunches. It is possible that refreshments may be provided exceptionally for meetings with external visitors, but to identify these would incur disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Photographs

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on Ministerial *(a)* photoshoots and *(b)* videos since May 2010. [67545]

Richard Benyon: The information is as follows:

(a) Since May 2010 DEFRA has incurred one cost of £1,350 which arose from the need for new ministerial photographs following the general election.

(b) Since May 2010, in-house resources have been used to produce ministerial videos.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by her Department since May 2010. [61677]

Richard Benyon: The Department has followed Office for Government Commerce guidelines when drawing up new contracts since May 2010. Behavioural standards are included in clauses covering prevention of corruption, prevention of fraud, discrimination, environmental requirements, health and safety, data protection, confidentiality and security. In addition, Model Terms and Conditions for Contracts Services contain clauses covering conflict of interest and vetting procedures.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of procurement contracts offered by her Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67240]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies follow the Transparency guidance issued by HM Treasury and Cabinet Office on the publication of opportunities, tenders and contracts awarded over £10,000 in value on the Contract Finder website.

Departmental performance can be seen in the published document at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/transparency-procurement-contracting-departmental-progress.pdf

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what process her Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of her Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67206]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is committed to following the Better Regulation Executive's Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation.

Guidance is produced by policy teams across the Department, working with stakeholders and regulators. This forms an integral part of the normal processes for developing policy and is not a separate task. It is not possible therefore to identify how many officials are involved in its production.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many procurement contracts her Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67239]

Richard Benyon: The central records of the Department and its Executive agencies do not yet hold accurate information of the SME status of all its suppliers. We plan to have this information by the end of the year and I will place it in the House of Commons Library at that stage.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings she has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67167]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* she and *(b)* officials of her Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67190]

Richard Benyon: We do not currently keep data on invitations to meetings that have been declined and do not plan to do so in the future.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings officials of her Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67345]

Richard Benyon: This Department is fully engaged in the review of employment-related law being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Department will also be looking at ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge. Relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review, for example, in relation to the Agricultural Wages Board workstream.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67578]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 614W.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in her Department have been employed on contracts of *(a)* three to six months, *(b)* one to three months and *(c)* less than one month who have previously worked for the Department on a permanent contract in the last 12 months. [65357]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 11 July 2011]*: The Department and its executive agencies have not employed any individual, in the last 12 months, on a contract of *(a)* three to six months, *(b)* one to three months or *(c)* less than one month, who has previously worked for the Department on a permanent contract.

Departmental Training

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose was of such training. [67544]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The Department has not spent anything on ministerial training since May 2010.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether her Department has any plans to bring forward proposals for the abolition of legislative exemptions on conditions for the breeding, keeping and euthanising of beagles; [66369]

(2) what plans her Department has to improve standards of animal welfare at beagle farms in the next four financial years; [66374]

(3) what her Department's policy is on standards of animal welfare at beagle farms; [66375]

(4) whether her Department has any plans to amend regulations on conditions of animal welfare among commercially-bred beagles. [66380]

Mr Paice: The standards that apply in establishments where animals are being bred for the purpose of scientific experimentation are the responsibility of the Home Office, not DEFRA. There are no plans for DEFRA to take responsibility for these establishments.

Section 58 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA) lays down that breeding establishments for animals to be used in experimentation are specifically exempted from the AWA.

Eggs: Imports

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to protect egg producers from adverse effects arising from the import of *(a)* food products manufactured from shell eggs produced in systems in other EU member states which do not comply with EU directives and *(b)* egg products manufactured from eggs produced in conventional cage production systems outside the EU. [66199]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Government are totally committed to the 2012 deadline to have phased out the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages in the UK. From 1 January 2012, it will therefore be illegal to keep laying hens in conventional cages and on that basis, marketing such eggs as Class A within the UK will be against the law.

We are not able unilaterally to prevent egg products produced from eggs in conventional cages being imported from third countries. World Trade Organisation rules do not allow members to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applied in third countries.

We have, however, been at the forefront of efforts to convince the Commission that simply relying on infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states will not be enough to deal with the negative impact that non-compliance would cause and that additional measures would need to be put in place to prevent market disturbance and to protect compliant producers. We will continue to keep up the pressure on the Commission to act and act quickly.

We are also in the process of drawing up an enforcement strategy which we will be discussing with industry representatives and retailers and how we can best work together to take things forward.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff the Environment Agency employs in England and Wales. [64211]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency employs 11,654 staff in England and Wales, including employment agency personnel and contractors. This compares to 13,766 members of staff (including employment agency personnel and contractors) employed during the fourth quarter of 2009-10.

EU Grants and Loans

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had on the simplification of the application process for LEADER funding. [67280]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1081W.

Flooding: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the risk of flooding in Reading West constituency arising from increased surface water. [66493]

Richard Benyon: Reading borough council is the lead local flood authority and is responsible for surface water flooding in the Reading West constituency. The Environment Agency continues to be responsible for managing river flooding from the main rivers.

In 2010 the Environment Agency published a national map that identifies areas at risk from Surface Water Flooding. The EA has also been working in partnership with Reading borough council on a surface water management plan. This plan will improve understanding of local sources of flooding (including surface water) across Reading and will investigate potential options to reduce existing and future risk. The work will be completed this year.

The EA has facilitated Reading borough council delivering a scheme to reduce surface water flooding by awarding £100,000 of funding on behalf of DEFRA. The scheme was completed in June of this year, reducing risk in the area around Kingsley Close.

Food: Oils

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage the reuse of cooking oil used in the food industry. [67658]

Richard Benyon: In line with our vision of a 'zero waste economy', we want to increase the amount of waste cooking oils that can be recycled into other useful products where this is safe, legal and appropriate.

We sponsored development by the Environment Agency of a 'Quality Protocol' for production and use of biodiesel derived from waste cooking oil and rendered animal fat. Demonstrating compliance with this Protocol shows a supplier/processor has reprocessed waste oils/fats into a quality product. The EA provides information on recyclers that have demonstrated compliance with the protocol.

There is an exemption from the need for an environmental permit for the physical treatment of waste edible oil and fat to produce biodiesel.

As part of our better regulation agenda, and following further consultation, it is proposed to extend the scope of the exemption to also allow for the small-scale chemical treatment of up to 250 litres in addition to the 5,000 litre limit for physical treatment. This will be introduced at the next suitable opportunity to amend the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

In the Waste Review, the Government announced the development of a responsibility deal with the hospitality and food service sector to tackle food and packaging waste. We will work with businesses and trade organisations to examine the scope for including the reuse of cooking oil as a part of this agreement.

Food: Procurement

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS, on Food and Catering Services (Government Buying Standards), what estimate her Department has made of the costs of implementing and maintaining its policy that fish will be procured from certifiably sustainable sources from September 2011. [62198]

Richard Benyon: Overfishing is the most widespread and significant human pressure on marine wildlife and habitats. Many fish stocks are overexploited globally, with the Food and Agricultural Organisation reporting in 2010 that 32% of stocks are overexploited, depleted or recovering. A further 53% of stocks are fully exploited, with the rest under or moderately exploited.

Within the North East Atlantic (in 2011), 63% of stocks are overexploited, and 37% are at or below their maximum sustainable yield.

It is therefore very important that we lead by example in procuring sustainable fish and I believe that a 100% target is fully achievable.

We have estimated that around 60% of fish procured by central Government is demonstrably sustainable. To increase this to 100%, based upon an assumed 5% price premium for sustainably-sourced fish, the cost of implementing and maintaining this criteria is estimated to be:

Approximately £227,000 per annum where the food procured is taxpayer-funded (prisons, MOD operational and so on);

Approximately £95,000 per annum where the food procured is customer-funded (central Government Department staff restaurants).

Two caveats apply here:

These are undiscounted costs. A discount rate of 3.5% per annum is usually used in the appraisal of Government policy, so as to allow an accurate comparison of costs and benefits which occur in different years;

The latter figures do not take into account a possible demand response, though this is likely to be relatively small.

Glass: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to maximise the rate of recycling into glass of glass collected directly from households. [67665]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* In the Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, the Government stated their intention to consult on amending the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (as amended) to establish a sub-target for recycling glass back into glass.

Hill Farming

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the average annual income of hill farmers in England. [67855]

Mr Paice: The majority of hill farmers in England are classified as those grazing livestock in the Less Favoured Area (LFA). The most recent data from the Farm Business Survey were published in October 2010 and indicate that average Farm Business Income for this farm type was £22,000 for 2009-10. Initial forecasts for 2010-11, published in January 2011, suggest this figure is likely to have fallen to £14,500 due to higher input prices and a lower output from beef enterprises. Actual survey results for 2010-11 will be published on 27 October 2011.

Hill Farming: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many former Hill Farm Allowance applicants are now participating in uplands entry level stewardship; and how many are in receipt of the uplands transitional payment. [62674]

Mr Paice: There were 7,009 eligible claims for the Hill Farm Allowance (HFA) in 2010. An initial analysis of uptake up to mid-January 2011 shows that of these claims 2,503 were receiving Uplands Entry Level Stewardship (Uplands ELS) and 2,099 were receiving Uplands Transitional Payment (UTP). The analysis will be published this week on DEFRA's website.

A further analysis will be undertaken once a full year's Uplands ELS uptake data are available in July. This will give a fuller picture of how former HFA claimants are participating in either UTP or Uplands ELS. It is expected that this will show a further increase in the proportion of HFA 2010 recipients with a live Uplands ELS agreement; between mid-January and mid-June the number of live Uplands ELS agreements increased by 29% to 4,590.

Houseboats

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy objectives in respect of boat dwellers are of the Government's proposed amendment to schedule 5 of the Public Bodies Bill in respect of British Waterways; and what powers British Waterways *(a)* has and *(b)* is proposed to have in respect of summary eviction. [66689]

Richard Benyon: There is no proposed amendment to Schedule 5 of the Public Bodies Bill. However, an amendment was tabled during the passage of the Bill in the House of Lords, and passed (forming Note 1 of Schedule 5 to the Bill). The purpose of that amendment was not to seek the enhancement of any of the British Waterways Board's existing powers but to enable the proposed New Waterways Charity to receive the British Waterways Board's existing important statutory and regulatory functions. If the amendment had not been made, other provisions in the Bill would unintentionally have prevented that from happening.

Under section 8 of the British Waterways Act 1983, sunk, stranded or abandoned vessels or vessels moored without lawful authority on the waterways may only be removed by the British Waterways Board after due process including giving any required notice and periods of grace. Wherever a vessel is identified as being someone's home, British Waterways does not exercise its powers under section 8 without having taken the matter to the County Court and obtained a declaration from the Court that the removal is lawful. These long-held powers operate in the interests of the waterways and their users. The Government does not intend to amend or expand them when they are transferred to the proposed New Waterways Charity.

Ivory

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking *(a)* through international organisations and *(b)* at EU level to implement the commitment in the coalition agreement to press for a ban on ivory sales. [67020]

Richard Benyon: The UK is working with EU partners, other countries and non-governmental organisations, to develop a robust and highly precautionary line to take in discussions on the development of that decision-making mechanism. This will be one of the key areas of discussion at the forthcoming convention on international trade in endangered species Standing Committee meeting, which takes place next month in Geneva.

The global ban on the international commercial sale of ivory, agreed by parties to CITES in 1989, remains in place.

Nevertheless, at the 14th CITES conference of the parties in 2007, it was agreed that a decision-making mechanism for any future sales would be developed by 2013.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the UK provides *(a)* directly and *(b)* through the EU for elephant protection in (i) Africa and (ii) Asia. [67021]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA supports elephant protection by funding conservation projects in Africa and Asia directly, via the Darwin Initiative, and through trade controls applied under the Convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES).

The Government have made tackling illegal trafficking in wildlife a priority and this year we are providing £30,000 towards a CITES programme which monitors the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE). We are also providing £35,000 towards the running of the international Union for Conservation of Nature's African Elephant Specialist Group which works closely with African states to protect elephant populations. We will also provide £90,000 to an Interpol project to help African states improve their enforcement capacity and elephant (and rhino) protection.

We are currently funding three Darwin Initiative projects contributing to elephant conservation totalling approximately £495,000 over three years, and another project worth £240,000, that will fund improvements to the elephant trade information system database which monitors all illegal seizures of ivory around the world. In addition, the UK has funded wider international projects that will protect the habitats of forest-dwelling elephants by combating deforestation and illegal logging (for example, in the Congo Basin and South East Asia).

The UK also contributes to the EU budget which in turn provides significant funding to CITES activities on elephant issues. This work includes a meeting in November 2010 that brought together African countries to discuss elephant conservation, and the MIKE programme in Africa (€10 million over the last five years), as well as several wider projects on forest conservation.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in protecting elephants. [67022]

Richard Benyon: In its role as the UK management authority for the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES), DEFRA works with other CITES parties, the CITES secretariat and non-governmental organisations, particularly through our position on the CITES Standing Committee, to review the convention's delivery of its purpose and resolutions and decisions agreed by the parties. There is a raft of strong resolutions and decisions calling for action on elephants, and delivery of these is reviewed at annual Standing Committee meetings as well as at triennial conferences of the parties. The UK takes a keen interest in this area and will continue to do so at the forthcoming Standing Committee in August.

Landfill

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish on her Department's website a summary of responses to the consultation on the introduction of restrictions on the landfilling of certain wastes. [66890]

Richard Benyon: We published the "Summary of responses to the consultation on the introduction of restrictions on the landfilling of certain wastes (18 March - 10 June 2010)" on our website in September 2010.

However, consultations and their associated documents are only held on the DEFRA website for a year after the consultation document is first published. The consultation paper and related materials, including the associated summary of responses, remain on the National Archives website.

Materials

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she made of the resource risks to businesses from the security of supply of *(a)* lithium, *(b)* tin, *(c)* lead, *(d)* copper, *(e)* rare earth metals, *(f)* phosphorus, *(g)* cobalt metals and *(h)* indium. [66432]

Mr Paice: The eight resources identified were assessed as part of a DEFRA research report: 'Review of the Future Resource Risks faced by UK Business and an Assessment of Future Viability', published in December 2010, available on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA has committed to publish an action plan on resource security to assist businesses with strategic risk management and the recovery of critical resources. The research findings are feeding into the development of the action plan.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to *(a)* review and *(b)* revise the list of species published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [66726]

Richard Benyon: There are 943 species of principal importance included on the section 41 list which was last updated in August 2010. We currently have no plans to review or revise the list.

Primates: Pets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of primates kept as pets in England. [66277]

Mr Paice: Estimates of the numbers of primates kept by private ownership in England vary considerably. The working group that drafted the Code of Practice on the Welfare of Privately Kept Non-Human Primates estimated the number to be between 900 and 1,600, and used the mid-range figure of 1,200 in calculations (held by an estimated 300 private owners, i.e. not zoos or rescue centres).

During consultation on the code, several respondents provided alternative higher estimates based on some Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 licences issued and sales figures of primates. From the consultation's summary, most respondents estimated that there were between 1,500 and 7,500. We acknowledge that numbers of primates in private hands is difficult to estimate, but we have used the figure of 1,200 to 5,000 to demonstrate the sort of costs owners might be expected to meet, as a result of the code.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual value is of her Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66598]

Richard Benyon: The annual value of current contracts may vary from year to year. To collect this annual value data for the core department and its executive agencies for each current contract and to identify each master category to which the contract relates would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department and its executive agencies and non departmental public bodies follow the transparency guidance issued by HM Treasury and Cabinet Office on the publication of opportunities, tenders and contracts awarded over £10,000 in value on the Contract Finder website.

Recycling

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling centres there have been in each of the last 10 years; and how many such centres have closed since May 2010. [65711]

Richard Benyon: The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of recycling centres in England since 2005-06. The information is drawn from data provided by local authorities to DEFRA's WasteDataFlow system which does not hold earlier figures.

www.wastedataflow.org

The collation of WasteDataFlow data for the 2010-11 financial year has not yet been completed. Although there has been no formal research into site closures, decreases in the number of sites are likely to reflect increases in kerbside recycling collections reducing demand for sites, and also local priorities for resource allocation. Any specific reason would be a matter for individual authorities, and inquiries should be directed to them.

The Department does not hold information about the number of recycling centres that have closed since May 2010.

	Recycling centres
2005-06	808
2006-07	782
2007-08	744
2008-09	739
2009-10	756

Reservoirs

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what applications for the construction of reservoirs in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland are pending where the proposed nation to which the water will be supplied is to be different from the source; and if she will make a statement. [67790]

Richard Benyon: I am not aware of any existing or proposed application for the construction of such a reservoir in England. Applications to Scottish or Welsh planning authorities are matters for those authorities or the Scottish or Welsh Governments where appropriate.

Rights of Way

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects on landowners of rights of way over their land. [66849]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State has not carried out any formal assessment of the potential effects on landowners of public rights of way over their land. However, an independent Farming Regulation Task Force, chaired by Richard Macdonald, published a report in May on reducing the regulatory burden on landowners and it included various recommendations to DEFRA in relation to public rights of way. The Government will consider the report's recommendations carefully, and will provide an initial public response and parliamentary statement this autumn.

Rivers: Chalk Streams

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for river environment restoration of chalk streams *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Hertfordshire. [66494]

Richard Benyon: As announced in the Natural Environment White Paper the Government intends to take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently. Further details will be included in the Water White Paper.

The chalk streams in Hertfordshire suffer from low flows as a result of over abstraction. These are located on the Rivers Stort, Ash, Rib, Beane and Mimram. Through the Environment Agency's (EA) Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme it is seeking to improve flows in these rivers and working with Veolia Water Central and a number of experts to establish how much water we need in these rivers to support good ecological status.

The EA is also undertaking habitat restoration where it has identified opportunities for improvement. For example, the removal of barriers to fish migration is a key element of delivering the Water Framework Directive and the EA has identified a programme of improvements over the next three years on the Rivers Beane and Rib.

To help protect and improve chalk stream habitats the EA works closely with other organisations, including the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, which has a chalk stream project officer in place to deliver improvements within the catchments.

Rivers: Kayakers

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to change river access rights for kayakers. [66485]

Richard Benyon: We have no plans to legislate to change the access rights for kayakers and canoeists, and remain committed to the use of locally agreed, voluntary, access agreements as the means of increasing river access for non-powered craft. This fits very well with the Big Society agenda as it will give access where it is needed and meet the needs of all users and interested parties.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's Growth Review in relation to rural communities. [67281]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has had recent discussions on the Rural Economy Growth Review with the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), through the course of normal business. Officials from both Departments have also met regularly to advance the Review, including through a cross-Departmental Project Board which met for the first time on 11 July.

Rural Communities Policy Unit

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants are employed in the Rural Communities Policy Unit; and where they are based. [67283]

Richard Benyon: The Rural Communities Policy Unit currently has 31 staff and is also able to draw upon dedicated support from DEFRA economists and social researchers. Eighteen of the unit's staff are based in London, 10 in Bristol and three in York.

Rural Development Programme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of demand for funding available through the Rural Development Programme for England to support upland farming. [67292]

Mr Paice: We continue to monitor uptake of all agri-environment schemes, including Uplands Entry Level Stewardship (Uplands ELS). Uptake of Uplands ELS currently stands at 4,600 agreements or 708,200 hectares of land in the Severely Disadvantaged Area.

In maximising the use of EU funds, and through the spending review settlement, we have successfully maintained planned levels of spend on agri-environment at above £400 million per annum. Within this amount, we remain committed to maximising uptake for Uplands ELS and have ensured that funding is available to enable all eligible famers to enter the scheme. Uplands ELS uptake is currently limited by the area of land that remains in Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area agreements. These will be eligible to renew into Uplands ELS (and also in many cases Higher Level Stewardship) as agreements expire between now and 2015. We are working with Natural England to maximise such renewals.

As announced in the Uplands Policy Review on 10 March, the Government are working to develop an 'uplands theme' for Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) delivery for the rest of the programme and will be discussing what this needs to deliver with industry representatives. In addition, some priority is being given to helping those Leader Local Action Groups (LAG) in uplands areas continue to deliver against their Local Development Strategies. The LAG and DEFRA RDPE delivery team will discuss and agree how best to deliver this support at the local level, based on demand and performance criteria.

Rural Development Programme: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding is available to the Yorkshire and the Humber region under the Rural Development Programme for England. [67290]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1083-84W.

Satellites: Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to what extent her Department uses earth observation satellite technology in developing policy on *(a)* marine and agricultural monitoring, *(b)* resource management, *(c)* urban plannings, *(d)* biodiversity and nature conservation and *(e)* infectious disease risk management; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of earth observation satellite technology in each policy area. [66152]

Richard Benyon: My Department uses Earth Observation (EO) across a number of policy areas and also operationally within some arm's length bodies.

(a) In the marine and agricultural monitoring areas examples include monitoring marine water quality, specifically algal blooms concentrations and extent. Annual cross compliance checks on agricultural subsidies claims are carried out by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) using satellite imagery.

(b) Satellite technology is used within the resource management processes by the Forestry Commission to create their UK forestry inventory. The Environment Agency has used satellite imagery in flooding management situations, such as the Tewkesbury floods in 2007.

(c) Urban planning is the responsibility of Department for Communities and Local Government and local authorities.

(d) Within the policy areas of biodiversity and nature conservation earth observation provides the source information for the UK Land Cover Map (LCM) and Countryside Survey. Examples of the Department uses of LCM data include generation of summary statistics of the extent broad habitats types, habitat distribution and connectivity, ecological modelling and assessments and animal disease transmission.

(e) FERA has used EO as an input to improve their understanding of plant disease and in particular "Phytophthora ramorum" modelling.

Within the wider context of earth observation, DEFRA leads the UK contribution on the EU earth monitoring programme, Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). The Department places a strong emphasis on meeting user needs within GMES and runs a number of 'Network Groups' to support the programme within the domains of Land, Marine, Atmosphere, Climate Change and Emergency' Response. These cross-community groups provide the Department with a platform for active consideration of the effectiveness and the potential of earth observation satellite technology in each associated policy area, both in the context of GMES and earth observation more widely. This is supplemented by a specialist forum which is co-chaired by JNCC and DEFRA.

Sewage: Waste Disposal

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria she plans to use to determine whether a septic tank qualifies for an exemption from a permit to discharge under the Environmental Permitting Programme Second Phase regulations. [66241]

Richard Benyon: Unless it is located close to sensitive environmental sites, including drinking water abstraction boreholes, only a septic tank discharging two cubic metres per day or less to groundwater need to be registered. If the tank is discharging more than two cubic meters per day, it would require a permit. Also, if it is located close to a sensitive site then a permit is required. The Environment Agency considers applications on a case by case basis to ensure there will be no adverse environmental impact guidance for on the requirements of the regulations for sewage discharges from septic tanks can be found on the Environment Agency website.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the penalty is for failure to register with the Environment Agency the discharge of sewage effluent from a septic tank under the Environmental Permitting Programme Second Phase regulations. [66242]

Richard Benyon: Owners of septic tanks that discharge to ground do not legally need to be registered until 1 January 2012. There will therefore be no penalties before this date. After this date, the owner would be committing an offence under the Environmental Permitting Regulations if they do not have a registration or a permit. The Environment Agency will advise owners who do not have a registration or permit that they are committing an offence, and that they must apply for a registration at their earliest convenience. Further action will be considered on a case by case basis.

DEFRA is currently working closely with the Environment Agency to consider whether the current approach or an alternative one is the most appropriate.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department plans to provide to householders required to register sewage discharge from a septic tank under the Environmental Permitting Programme Second Phase regulations. [66243]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is responsible for implementing and administering the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010. Guidance for householders on the requirements of these regulations for sewage discharges from septic tanks can be found online at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/default.aspx

DEFRA is currently working closely with the Environment Agency to check whether the approach is the most appropriate and whether there might be opportunities for further simplification.

Sustainable Development: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to respond to the European Commission Communication on the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development, COM(2011) 363. [67386]

Mr Paice: The Communication sets out the European Commission's initial views on what it thinks should be agreed at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, 4-6 June 2102. It is a staff working document, and its contents have not been agreed outside the Commission. In October the Environment Council is expected to agree Conclusions on Rio+20, and the UK will be fully involved in the negotiating process leading up to those Conclusions being adopted. The Communication is the Commission's contribution to that process.

Trade Unions

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any staff of her Department are entitled to work full-time on trade union activities while receiving a departmental salary. [60251]

Richard Benyon: There are 10 members of staff in the Department (six in core DEFRA and four in the executive agencies) who are currently engaged in full-time trade union activities and whose salary is paid by the Department.

The total salary cost of full-time TU representatives in 2011-12 is forecast to be

£356,927, consisting of:

Core DEFRA—£249,350

AHVLA—£25,903

RPA—£81,674.

The total salary cost of full-time TU representatives in 2010-11 was £564,821, consisting of:

Core DEFRA—£457,244

AHVLA—£25,903

RPA—£81,674.

Waste

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the development of her Department's waste prevention programme. [66495]

Richard Benyon: The waste prevention programme, as required by the revised EU waste framework directive, will be in place by December 2013.

Waste Management

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has recently examined the appropriateness of siting waste management sites which use mechanical and biological treatment in residential areas. [67429]

Richard Benyon: Determining the location and type of new waste infrastructure is a matter for local authorities. Development plans set the framework for development in a local authority area, including what new waste infrastructure is needed and where it should go. In turn, these plans help the authority determine planning applications. The Environment Agency, in its role as a statutory consultee to the planning system, advises local authorities on development plans and planning applications to ensure protection of the environment and human health. This is done through its role as a planning consultee and helps to minimise the impact of waste facilities on the environment and human health.

Water Companies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints her Department has received concerning each water utility company in each of the last five years. [66391]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold a central register of complaints concerning water companies. To produce a definitive list would involve disproportionate cost.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking in relation to geographical monopolies by water utility companies. [66393]

Richard Benyon: The Water White Paper, due to be published by December 2011, will look at the recommendations made by Professor Martin Cave in his independent review of competition and innovation in water markets to apply more competitive pressure to the sector. The Water White Paper will cover the geographical areas of the water companies that are wholly or mainly in England.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to simplify comparisons between the charges of water utility companies for *(a)* product and *(b)* installation costs. [66396]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales. Its leaflet "Your water and sewerage bill 2011-12" sets out the charges for each water company in England and Wales.

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Wood: Recycling

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that individuals are protected from pollution caused by wood recycling; and what assessment she has made of the risk to the public from carcinogens in wood dust. [67699]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The treatment and recycling of waste wood may only be carried out in accordance with an environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency or within the rules laid down in an exemption from the need for a permit for chipping, shredding, cutting or pulverising non-hazardous waste wood. The permitting and exemption controls are in place in order to prevent harm to human health and the environment from the recovery and disposal of waste.

The Health and Safety Executive has published an information sheet on its website on the hazards and precautions associated with wood dust in the workplace.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the consultation process on altering the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundaries. [67678]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 25 July 2011]:* In accordance with section 7 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Natural England must consult with every local authority and parish council which has land in the area to be designated a National Park, as well as every local authority, parish council and the National Park Authority with land in any National Park whose boundaries are proposed to be varied. Natural England's total consultation costs for consulting with statutory consultees and the general public on proposed extensions to the boundaries of both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks is just under £100,000 to March 2011 of which 50% is attributable to the Yorkshire Dales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability: Young People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to update the system of disability assessments for young disabled people. [67041]

Maria Miller: Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16-64) adults from 2013 and a new, more objective assessment is being designed to gather information about adult needs. We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working-age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children. Therefore we will not consider extending personal independence payment to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people. We will consult on any substantive changes to the arrangements for children and regulations on this issue will be subject to the scrutiny of the House.

In developing the arrangements for children on DLA we also want to take account of ongoing work across Government to review more broadly the wide range of support for disabled young people. The Department for Education's Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 10 March, sets out the Government's aspiration to move towards a single assessment process for a child's social care, health and special educational needs. The Department for Education plan to test the approach starting this year and we will look at the findings of the pathfinders to explore whether the single assessment process might also be used to support claims for disability living allowance and personal independence payment.

Employment Services: British Sign Language

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport the potential assistance of a universal video relay service to British Sign Language users in finding and maintaining employment. [48246]

Maria Miller: Supporting disabled people, including those with a hearing impairment, into employment is a critical role for Government. Liz Sayce has undertaken an independent review of employment support available for disabled people and her report—Getting in, staying in and getting on—was published on 9 June. A full Government response and consultation was published on 11 July.

DWP provides a range of services and technology to enable communication for people who are speech or hearing impaired to support them in finding employment. These include Textphones, TexBox, Type-Talk and induction loops.

We are happy to explore how our services might be further improved. This may include exploration, with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, of the potential assistance of a universal video reply service. Any such exploration would need to take into account any mandate from Ofcom in relation to relay services for telecommunications, as well as the benefits and costs of video relay technology in delivering our services for disabled people.

Housing Benefit: Disability

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider exempting disabled tenants in adapted properties from his proposed reductions in the level of housing benefit where they have a spare bedroom. [67401]

Steve Webb: We are aware of concerns about the impact on some disabled people in adapted properties of our proposals to limit housing benefit for social sector tenants who are under-occupying their accommodation. We are looking at potential ways to limit the impact of these changes for this group.

TRANSPORT

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67572]

Norman Baker: The Department has spent £1,864.76 on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. This compares with £2,743.13 in the financial year 2009-10. The central Department's subscription to Sky TV was cancelled in

December 2010. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency continues to subscribe to the basic Sky TV package to enable them to view regional news coverage of incidents.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67157]

(2) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67180]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested is not held in the format requested.

The Department receives a large number of invitations from all sources and we do not consider that keeping records of the number of times that meeting requests are declined would be value for money or practical.

It is my general policy to accede to all requests for meetings requested by hon. Members, irrespective of party allegiance, unless there are exceptional reasons not to do so.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking in respect of drivers from overseas who are uninsured. [66641]

Mike Penning: All drivers using roads in the UK must have at least third party insurance covering the use of their vehicle in this country. Under EU law all insurance policies issued in any EU member state must include the use of that vehicle for minimum third party risks for temporary visits to all EU member states.

Drivers must be able to produce evidence that they have the necessary insurance cover in place on request from the police.

Motorways: Wildlife

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to protect wildlife crossing motorways. [66635]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England, which includes motorways. The agency undertakes works to mitigate the impact of its operational, maintenance and improvement works, including the provision for wildlife crossing the network, and to reduce the risk of animals being killed or injured on the network.

Mitigation measures include tunnels, culverts, underpasses, adapted farm crossings and species specific structures such as bat bridges. Appropriate fencing and planting may be included to encourage use of the crossings and/or to integrate them within the surrounding environment. The agency also undertakes research to support the development of advice in relation to the effectiveness of such measures.

Further advice on mitigating this issue, is published within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, and this is available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index.htm

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of when the first Future Carrier will be operational; and when it will be able to deploy fast jet aircraft from its deck. [66915]

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers to be equipped with Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. [67316]

Peter Luff: The date that the operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier enters service with the Royal Navy will depend on which ship will be converted to operate the carrier variant Joint Strike Fighter. This in turn will inform when fast jets will be deployed from the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. We expect firm decisions to be taken on carrier conversion in late 2012 and it remains our intent to deliver a carrier strike capability from around 2020.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether planned adjustments to the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers will make them compatible with French Rafale aircraft. [67315]

Peter Luff: The conversion of the operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier will allow the more capable carrier variant Joint Strike Fighter to be operated. The change in aircraft launch and recovery equipment will offer improved levels of interoperability with our allies' aircraft, including the French Rafale. Further work on interoperability will be undertaken as part of our conversion investigations, which are expected to conclude in late 2012.

Armed Forces: Gurkhas

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to equalising continuation of services rights for Gurkhas serving in the armed forces; and what discussions he has had on this matter with representatives of Gurkha and former Gurkha groups. [66842]

Nick Harvey: None, because following implementation of the 2007 review of Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS), Gurkhas have served on the same TACOS as the rest of the British Army, including the regulations applying to continuance of service.

A survey of the views of serving members of the Brigade of Gurkhas was conducted during the course of the 2007 Gurkha TACOS review. There was also wide consultation among organisations representing the ex-Gurkha community.

Challenger Weapons

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to upgrade the Challenger weapons system; [67320]

(2) what assessment he has made of the future of the Challenger weapons system. [67321]

Peter Luff: The Challenger 2 main battle tank provides the Army's principal organic precision direct fire capability. The strategic defence and security review set out an enduring requirement for this capability in the future.

The Challenger 2 capability sustainment programme is currently in the concept phase. We expect to take a decision on the assessment phase around the middle of the decade.

Defence Board

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when meetings of the Defence Board are scheduled to occur in the period to May 2015. [66898]

Dr Fox: I currently plan to chair Defence Boards on the following dates this year:

16 September

21 October

16 December.

As you might expect, the dates for these meetings are subject to change if required.

In addition I plan to hold a further strategy awayday for the Board in the autumn. The date for this is being finalised.

Details of meetings for 2012 and beyond will be published nearer the time.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to make the minutes of the Defence Board meetings available to hon. Members. [66899]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence will routinely publish Defence Board agendas, unclassified summaries of conclusions, meeting dates, and lists of papers taken by the Board.

Defence: Procurement

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of UK small and medium-sized enterprises in its projects; and what account he takes of such steps in implementing a strategy of buying supplies off-the-shelf. [66706]

Nick Harvey: In the Defence and Security sectors, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are often an important source of research and innovation, as well as offering adaptability and flexibility. The Government recognises that SMEs face a number of challenges when looking to supply goods and services to the Government. The forthcoming White Paper on Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security will set out how the Government will encourage and enable SMEs to participate more fully in these sectors.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which partners and suppliers his Department is working; and on which projects. [66707]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence let around 22,000 contracts last year and uses over 30,000 suppliers, ranging in size from large multi-nationals to micro-enterprises, details of which are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We do, however, publish a list of our largest suppliers each year in Table 1.17 of "UK Defence Statistics". Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67914]

Dr Fox: I have not flown on official business on a budget airline.

On 23 May 2011 I flew in economy class from Tampa to Washington DC.

Departmental Correspondence

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence his Department has received from Ministers in HM Treasury in respect of its RAF basing review. [67400]

Dr Fox: No. To do so would be prejudicial to the maintenance of the collective responsibility of Ministers of the Crown.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget has been spent on *(a)* munitions, *(b)* urgent operational requirements, *(c)* personnel, *(d)* equipment, *(e)* major projects and (f) office costs since October 2010. [66900]

Dr Fox: The following table shows the spend between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2011 on munitions, administration costs (excluding personnel), major projects, equipment and equipment support, and personnel, as a proportion of the total annual Defence budget for 2010-11.

	Percentage
Munitions	0.27
Administration Costs (excl. personnel)	0.55
Major Projects	2.12
Equipment and Equipment Support	17.08
Personnel	18.49

Urgent operational requirements (UORs) are not funded from the Defence budget but from the Governmental Special Reserve. The cost to the reserve of UORs from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £321 million.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget has been spent on *(a)* operational costs for theatres of engagement and *(b)* running costs associated with offices, staff, training and logistics since October 2010. [66901]

Dr Fox: For the purpose of answering this question, I have taken 'running costs' to be the Ministry of Defence's administrative costs regime, (ACR) which includes the costs of major headquarters and spend in certain categories such as office accommodation and travel and subsistence. The proportion of the 2010-11 annual Defence budget covered by the ACR between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2011 was 3.01%.

The operational costs for theatres of engagement are not funded from the Defence budget but from the governmental special reserve. £1,458 million was charged to the reserve for the operating costs for operations (excluding capital costs) in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67193]

Dr Fox: No.

Departmental Travel

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on travel since May 2010. [59547]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) spent some £190 million on travel and subsistence between May 2010 and May 2011.

This figure includes, for both service and civilian staff, the cost of travel and accommodation booked centrally, the reimbursement of expenses incurred when using their own vehicle for duty journeys, most rail fares not booked centrally and some car hire costs. The figures also include expenses reimbursed to civilian staff for overnight accommodation, subsistence, taxi, bus and underground fares, parking charges and road tolls, and most of their air fares not booked centrally. Costs of the MOD's White Fleet are not included as they are not recorded on a monthly basis; however, we estimate that White Fleet contract and fuel costs averaged around £4.5 million a month. The figures also do not include all travel and subsistence costs reimbursed to service personnel, but we are currently improving the accessibility of these in the interests of transparency.

By whatever means staff travel, they must do so in a way that is the most economical in both money and official time.

I apologise for the delay in providing this information.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on first class rail fares for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers since May 2010. [59615]

Mr Robathan: Since 12 May 2010, the Department has spent £3,720.01 on ministerial first class rail travel in the UK. No departmental funds have been spent on first class rail travel for special advisers since that date.

Equipment: Defence

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future use of equipment purchased under recent urgent operational requirements; and what his policy is on the future use or disposal of such equipment. [67322]

Peter Luff: Defence Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with colleagues from HM Treasury on a range of issues including equipment capability procured under Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) procedures.

UOR equipment is routinely reviewed after 12 months of initial deployment or at the end of the operation for which it was procured, whichever is sooner. If it is judged to have future utility to Defence, it may be taken into the core programme. Where a capability is judged to be effective for the operation but has no future utility to Defence, it is supported for the length of the operation. If a capability is no longer required it is either run into obsolescence while it retains limited utility, or is disposed of. We are currently assessing which UOR equipment capabilities have enduring utility.

European Fighter Aircraft: Pilots

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Typhoon pilots are trained to engage ground targets. [66894]

Nick Harvey: Currently, 61% of UK qualified Typhoon pilots are trained to engage ground targets. The Typhoon force has a sufficient number of pilots trained to engage ground targets for current operations.

Future Force 2020

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many infantry battalions will be required for Future Force 2020; [67318]

(2) how many infantry battalions will be required under Force 2020. [67392]

Nick Harvey: As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) said in his statement to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 643-45, there will be a progressive adjustment to the regular/reserve balance of the Army as the capabilities of the Territorial Army improve in order to better meet the adaptable posture set out in the strategic defence and security review. This adjustment will require changes to the planned structures of the Army and work is now under way to define the detail. Before this work is complete it would be inappropriate to comment on the exact composition of Future Force 2020.

Libya

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on transport of equipment during operations in Libya; and what modes of transport have been engaged. [66897]

Nick Harvey: The majority of Operation Ellamy freight has been moved by RAF military transport vehicles at a cost of some £700,000; this has been supplemented by commercial road haulage at a cost of some £250,000.

Similarly, the majority of movements of equipment by air have been by RAF C17 and C130 aircraft at a total cost of some £61.8 million. This was supplemented by commercial charter at a cost of some £460,000.

No sealift support has been used for Operation Ellamy.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department is making for extended operations in Libya. [66903]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence routinely plans for a wide range of operational scenarios.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effects of operations in Libya on military capabilities. [66948]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* As the Chief of Defence Staff said on 14 June 2011:

> "We can sustain this operation as long as we choose to. I am absolutely clear on that."

Events in Libya have confirmed the Strategic Defence and Security Review decisions to adopt an adaptable posture with flexible forces—we can conduct a wide range of operations at considerable distance from the UK and we retain high readiness forces for air and naval operations. The outstanding work of our armed forces in Operation Ellamy demonstrates that the UK remains able to project power and influence.

Libya: Aircraft Carriers

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the use by UK aircraft of foreign airfields for operations in Libya; and if he will estimate the comparable cost for the use of an aircraft carrier. [67381]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the letter I sent to the hon. Member for Isle of Wight (Mr Turner) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1355-56W.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of operations in Libya on the UK's standing defence commitments. [64871]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has assessed that current operations in Libya are not impacting on the UK's standing defence commitments.

The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) set out the need to retain high-readiness forces, including air and naval operations, which provide for the possibility of a military response to a wide range of potential crises, alongside continuing to fulfil our standing commitments. Events in Libya have confirmed the validity of the SDSR decision to adopt an adaptable posture with flexible forces.

The outstanding work of our armed forces in Operation Ellamy demonstrates that the UK remains able to project power and influence.

Maritime Environment

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the reports titled *(a)* Maritime Environment and *(b)* Air Environment, referred to in section 2.7 of the National Audit Office report on Carrier Strike, HC 1092. [67500]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence does not intend to place the reports in the Library of the House as their release would be prejudicial to effective conduct of public affairs.

Mull of Kintyre Review

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his oral statement of 13 July 2011, on the Mull of Kintyre review, whether he plans to meet the families affected to discuss the findings of the review. [67352]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I was glad to have the opportunity to speak to members of the families most affected by the findings of the review on the day of publication.

Nimrod MRA4 Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated further costs are of decommissioning the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft. [66905]

Peter Luff: A settlement has been reached with BAE Systems for all of the terminated Nimrod MRA4 contracts. I am withholding the value of this settlement as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

It is not yet possible to estimate what the final costs or receipts will be for dismantling and disposing of the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft.

However, the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service is expected to save around £2 billion over the next 10 years.

Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what roles in his Department are being removed as part of the redundancy programme; and what steps he is taking to maintain the delivery of his Department's functions during and following implementation of reductions in staff numbers. [66902]

Dr Fox: Where specific capabilities have been removed under the strategic defence and security review, such as Type 22 Frigates, Harrier, and Nimrod MRA4 aircraft, the roles linked solely to the delivery of those capabilities are being removed. Some personnel previously in those roles will be reallocated to other functions. Reductions will be targeted at specific ranks, trades and branches where we currently have more personnel than we will need to support the future structure and capability, or where there is an imbalance in numbers.

We will direct, co-ordinate and drive forward implementation of all the changes to force structures, our organisation and the way we work through the Defence transformation programme. This is being taken forward under the direction of Mr Jonathan Slater, the newly appointed director general for transformation and corporate strategy, overseen by the Defence Transformation Board that I chair.

Royal Air Force

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent additional resources he has allocated to the *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* Royal Navy for commitments in Libya. [66841]

Nick Harvey: Any additional costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence as a result of operations in Libya are charged to the special Treasury Reserve. Operations are co-ordinated and undertaken jointly. As a result, these costs are not readily broken down by service.

South Sudan: Military Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a small military training and technical team to the Government of Southern Sudan to assist their military capacity building. [64155]

Nick Harvey: We will support capacity building by the Governments of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan through a variety of targeted training opportunities.

Special Air Service: Recruitment

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure appropriate recruitment of personnel to the Special Air Service. [66843]

Nick Harvey: The immense contribution of our highly-professional Special Forces is largely unreported, but this is necessary in order to protect operational capability. It is a long-standing policy that the Government do not ordinarily comment on matters relating to UK Special Forces.

Sri Lanka

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* staff, *(b)* assistance and *(c)* accommodation in respect of his visit to Sri Lanka in July 2011. [66946]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1143-44W.

Accommodation and assistance was provided by the high commission at no additional cost; the cost to the public purse of the three accompanying staff was £5,858.23 per person for international flights, which included an official visit to India en route to Sri Lanka.

Warrior Weapons

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the future of the Warrior weapons system; [67319]

(2) what plans he has to upgrade the Warrior weapons system. [67327]

Peter Luff: Warrior is the Army's principal infantry fighting vehicle and is integral to armoured manoeuvre, providing an unmatched combination of protection and mobility. The strategic defence and security review set out an enduring requirement for an armoured infantry capability, which the Warrior capability sustainment programme will deliver by extending the service life of the fleet.

The Warrior capability sustainment programme is currently in its assessment phase. The main investment decision is expected later this year.

HEALTH

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67565]

Mr Simon Burns: Since May 2010, the Department's Media Centre has paid £3,054.77 (which includes value added tax) to maintain its monthly subscription to Sky TV.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken was to process applications to the interim Cancer Drugs Fund from the time of their receipt *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each strategic health authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [67505]

Paul Burstow: This information is not being collected centrally.

In July 2010 the national health service Medical Director issued guidance to strategic health authorities which made clear that arrangements for the distribution of the additional £50 million of cancer drugs funding made available in 2010-11 should support timely decision-making, bearing in mind the 31 day cancer treatment standard. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Insolvency

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of providers in the social care sector at risk of insolvency. [67408]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made any such assessment. It is for the Care Quality Commission, as the regulator of adult social care services, to satisfy itself that a care service provider is financially viable.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the mental health performance data for NHS London for the third quarter of 2010-11, for what reasons the use of early intervention services and crisis resolution services increased. [67883]

Paul Burstow: In London, there were 3,992 people receiving treatment by early intervention teams at the end of the third quarter (December 2010) compared to 3,957 in quarter two and 3,928 in quarter one.

Data for Crisis Resolution services are collected cumulatively. In London, teams carried out 17,867 home treatment episodes over the first three quarters in 2010-11; of which 6,060 episodes were recorded for quarter one and 12,009 episodes for quarter two.

Data suggest that there was no noticeable increase in activities by the early intervention and crisis resolution services in London.

Data are collected by the NHS Information Centre; they are available on request but not routinely published.

Mental Illness: Offenders

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the joint HM inspectorate of prisons and HM inspectorate of constabulary report into police custody suites in Avon and Somerset, what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the provision of places of safety for people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983; and if he will take steps to assist South Gloucestershire primary care trust to improve its provision of such places. [67851]

Paul Burstow: The Department published guidance on places of safety in the revised Mental Health Act 1983 code of practice in May 2008, effective from November 2008. In addition, the Department issued guidance on section 44 of the Mental Health Act 2007 about transferring patients between places of safety. This came into force in April 2008.

The Department is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Police Improvement Agency to develop joint guidance on mental health which included a response to section 136 and a template for a service level agreement on how a health-based place of safety should be managed in accordance with the Mental Health Act 1983 code of practice.

Additionally, the Department is working with 10 police early adopter forces to transfer commissioning of police custodial health care. Complicit in this work will be care pathways for several cohorts of detainees into current community provision, including section 136 detainees into a health-based place of safety.

Commissioning responsibility for all national health service services, including the provision of places of safety for section 136 detainees, rests with primary care trusts (PCTs). Each PCT should decide which health care treatments and services to provide for its local population, and commission these from NHS or independent sector providers. The Department is not prescriptive about how individual PCTs spend their budgets.

Palliative Care

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his end-of-life care proposals include any mechanism to measure and recognise the financial contribution of families to the care of vulnerable people. [67464]

Paul Burstow: We recognise the enormous contribution, including financial contribution, that families make to the care of people approaching the end of life.

We welcome the final report of the independent Palliative Care Funding Review, which was published on 1 July. This has made an excellent start in looking at the complex and challenging issue of funding for palliative care and has come up with a range of significant proposals. We need now to consider these recommendations in detail and expect to consult stakeholders on the way forward later this summer before running pilots.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methods will be used to measure *(a)* quality and *(b)* access to services under his proposals for the provision of end-of-life care. [67465]

Paul Burstow: The independent Palliative Care Funding Review has looked at how Government can make sure that the money intended to help look after people who are approaching the end of life, and children who need palliative care, is spent in the right way. This will better enable people—children, adults and families—to choose how and from whom they receive the care they need.

The Review, which reported on 1 July, has made an excellent start in looking at this complex and challenging issue. It has come up with a range of significant proposals. We need now to consider these recommendations in detail and expect to consult stakeholders on the way forward later this summer before running pilots.

The Department has previously set out in the NHS Outcomes Framework its plans to develop a national indicator to measure the quality of end of life care. This will be informed by a national survey of the bereaved, which is currently being developed. We have also introduced an Indicator into the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12 to measure the improvement on the proportion of people who die in their usual place of residence—that is, their home or their care home.

Physiotherapy: Fees and Charges

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 91W, on physiotherapy, and with reference to the NHS Future Forum report, what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that prices set for physiotherapy services within the NHS do not lead to restrictions on the availability of services to patients; and if he will make a statement; [67388]

(2) what measures his Department plans to put in place for future oversight of prices set for physiotherapy services within the NHS; [67389]

(3) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that prices set for physiotherapy services within the NHS *(a)* are consistent across geographical areas and *(b)* do not lead to competition based on price. [67390]

Mr Simon Burns: We have proposed that future oversight of prices within the national health service would be undertaken by Monitor and the NHS Commissioning Board, as set out in the Health and Social Care Bill (Part 3, Chapter 5). Under the proposed legislation, it would be for the NHS Commissioning Board to agree with Monitor whether and to what extent prices for physiotherapy services were to be determined by the national tariff, or set locally.

Monitor would lead on developing the methodology for determining prices under the national tariff and agree this with the NHS Commissioning Board. We would expect Monitor to ensure consistency in the methodology for determining prices across different geographical areas, having regard to any unavoidable differences in the cost of providing services in different geographical areas.

In carrying out its functions, Monitor would have to have regard to the need for commissioners to secure access to health care services, to meet the needs of their populations, and to make best use of NHS resources in doing so. In this way, commissioners will remain responsible for securing services and making best use of NHS resources to meet the health care needs of their populations, including in securing access to physiotherapy.

We tabled amendments during the Public Bill Committee to make clear that the national tariff would be a fixed price, rather than a maximum price, so as to enable competition on quality, not on price, driven by patients' choices. For services outside the scope of the national tariff, we would expect commissioners to set prices on value for money criteria, as per guidance set out in the 'Procurement guide for commissioners of NHS-funded services', published in July 2010:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118218

A copy of this document has already been placed in the Library.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to improve access to information on the prostate-specific antigen test for men at higher risk of developing prostate cancer including men *(a)* from African and African Caribbean backgrounds, *(b)* with a family history of the disease and *(c)* over the age of 50; and if he will make a statement; [67409]

(2) what steps his Department is taking, beyond the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme, to raise awareness of prostate cancer amongst men at higher risk of the disease including men *(a)* from African and African Caribbean backgrounds, *(b)* with a family history of the disease and *(c)* over the age of 50; and if he will make a statement. [67410]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" highlights that the United Kingdom National Screening Committee has asked the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG) to explore options for making the evidence-based Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) information more accessible to all men. The Department is supportive of the principles of The Prostate Cancer Charity's "Testing Choices" campaign, and continues to work with the charity through PCAG, of which Owen Sharp, the chief executive of The Prostate Cancer Charity, is a member.

The patient information sheets on Prostate Specific Antigen testing in the PCRMP packs make it clear that prostate cancer is less common in men below the age of 50, and the risk is greater for men with a familial history of prostate cancer and black-African and black-Caribbean men.

To mark Ethnic Minority Cancer Awareness Week (11 to 17 July 2011), the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) sponsored a supplement in *The Voice* newspaper which had a whole page dedicated to black men's higher risk of prostate cancer, including facts about prostate cancer and testing for prostate cancer. NCAT has now commenced a targeted awareness campaign, with 10,000 copies of the supplement being distributed across London, the West Midlands, the East Midlands, Bradford and Manchester. The supplement followed an editorial in *The Voice* in May 2011 that directly addressed the higher incidence of prostate cancer in black men.

The Department is working collaboratively with Newham primary care trust, Newham University Hospital National Health Service Trust, The Prostate Cancer Charity and NCAT on a pilot community walk-in clinic for men with prostate problems at the Newham African-Caribbean Resource Centre. The pilot, which also aims to increase awareness of prostate cancer among the local population, is being evaluated to find out whether providing such a service in a community setting can make a difference to the numbers of men accessing this type of service rather than more traditional services. The clinic also offers men a series of prostate related tests, if required, with most test results provided immediately.

Radiotherapy: Finance

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applications *(a)* in total and *(b)* to each strategic health authority for selective internal radiation therapy have been (i) achieved, (ii) approved and (iii) denied under (A) the interim Cancer Drugs Fund and (B) the Cancer Drugs Fund; [67837]

(2) which strategic health authorities have included selective internal radiation therapy as a treatment to be reimbursed by *(a)* the interim Cancer Drugs Fund and *(b)* the Cancer Drugs Fund. [67838]

Paul Burstow: Decisions on which drugs, including radiopharmaceuticals; are funded from the additional cancer drugs funding arrangements are a matter for regional clinically-led panels based on the advice of cancer specialists.

Details of the arrangements that strategic health authorities have in place for the distribution of this funding are available on their websites.

Information on the number of patients treated through these arrangements is being collected by the Department and a breakdown of strategic health authority expenditure for 2010-11 is not yet available.

The Department is currently establishing monitoring arrangements for 2011-12.

Social Services: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to local authorities *(a)* in Teesside and *(b)* nationally of the provision of social care. [67727]

Paul Burstow: Our latest expenditure data show that, in 2009-10, net current expenditure across the three local authorities of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees was £145.922 million. The equivalent figure for England was £14,435.275 million.

Social Services: Manpower

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers were employed by each local authority in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each of the last 10 years. [67827]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes data relating to the number of social workers directly employed by social services departments within councils with social services responsibilities in England.

The following table shows the number of whole-time equivalent social workers employed in each council in England during the period 2000 to 2010 as at 30 September.

Data for Wales are not collected by the NHS Information Centre.

Number of social workers (whole time equivalent) employed by social services departments in England by council from 2000 to 2010

As at 30 September	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England[1]	36,900	37,800	38,800	40,400	41,100	42,400	43,900	44,800	44,800	45,700	45,800
Barking and Dagenham	95	105	110	110	130	135	150	225	260	215	205
Barnet	185	220	245	265	270	250	255	255	285	250	290
Barnsley	165	165	170	165	180	185	230	225	145	220	215
Bath and North East Somerset	115	115	120	115	105	135	130	140	140	120	115
Bedfordshire[2]	200	215	235	240	270	295	305	285	255	n/a	n/a
Bedford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	230	200
Central Bedfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	90	95
Bexley	155	165	165	165	140	145	135	125	110	145	145
Birmingham	855	935	1,035	1,060	1,160	1,140	1,155	1,165	1,235	1,225	1,165
Blackburn	125	125	135	135	160	170	180	185	190	180	190
Blackpool	145	130	115	125	130	150	150	170	170	195	195
Bolton	235	240	245	285	255	285	310	340	320	295	255
Bournemouth	175	175	170	165	170	165	175	175	170	180	200
Bracknell Forest	65	60	75	70	65	85	75	85	100	100	105
Bradford	380	390	400	415	465	480	505	510	515	525	560
Brent	205	160	275	220	180	210	215	240	240	260	275
Brighton and Hove	295	330	275	295	285	310	370	495	400	365	255
Bristol	390	365	405	450	465	475	500	460	510	495	500
Bromley	185	175	175	175	200	225	225	240	235	230	230
Buckinghamshire	220	220	205	215	195	210	240	255	285	290	260
Bury	135	145	140	135	145	140	150	165	150	165	180
Calderdale	125	125	130	120	135	130	120	140	135	135	65
Cambridgeshire	305	370	420	400	265	265	280	270	300	325	335
Camden	280	265	265	270	290	320	360	365	360	355	380
Cheshire[2]	395	415	420	420	435	460	490	455	510	n/a	n/a
Cheshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	255	250
Cheshire West and Chester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	250	245
City of London	25	25	15	25	20	15	25	15	15	10	10
Cornwall	265	265	280	305	335	385	425	405	395	395	375
Coventry	220	250	255	295	305	305	325	335	320	330	360
Croydon	225	220	230	240	265	290	300	305	285	270	220
Cumbria	305	330	350	370	370	405	405	410	425	435	430
Darlington	65	75	70	60	80	75	80	85	90	85	100
Derby	250	250	255	255	230	230	240	240	235	205	255
Derbyshire	510	495	535	550	565	590	590	580	590	615	630
Devon	485	420	430	440	440	490	500	490	435	470	440
Doncaster	180	180	200	205	255	265	255	270	290	290	305
Dorset	295	305	320	325	310	310	330	335	340	410	435
Dudley	185	200	200	200	245	250	290	315	300	295	255
Durham	375	410	420	380	395	405	425	425	455	495	490
Ealing	175	200	155	195	220	275	325	340	315	315	340
East Riding	220	235	240	185	210	200	215	210	220	230	295
East Sussex	465	440	485	520	545	540	545	565	580	610	640
Enfield	135	155	170	190	220	235	240	275	250	275	280

Number of social workers (whole time equivalent) employed by social services departments in England by council from 2000 to 2010

As at 30 September	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Essex	750	870	855	870	805	795	855	890	755	875	890
Gateshead	200	205	200	205	205	205	200	190	195	200	210
Gloucestershire	325	310	270	270	310	315	305	290	275	290	275
Greenwich	235	245	235	260	255	285	295	390	350	330	310
Hackney	295	280	185	185	205	205	230	305	280	245	275
Halton	90	90	90	100	105	100	100	90	105	110	120
Hammersmith and Fulham	215	210	235	250	235	255	265	260	345	365	215
Hampshire	570	635	535	760	765	755	700	685	715	685	750
Haringey	175	265	280	360	290	275	155	285	280	270	285
Harrow	180	170	185	180	180	180	180	185	185	165	175
Hartlepool	105	120	115	120	120	105	105	105	110	100	110
Havering	100	105	105	100	120	120	125	140	130	150	165
Herefordshire	105	105	115	115	115	110	110	125	130	135	115
Hertfordshire	790	790	695	685	675	675	700	725	700	670	670
Hillingdon	155	150	180	190	180	215	205	215	210	205	240
Hounslow	105	145	140	150	160	190	210	210	185	195	200
Isle of Wight	125	115	120	115	140	140	145	145	145	145	145
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5
Islington	310	255	265	255	290	340	340	335	335	330	310
Kensington and Chelsea	260	245	245	245	250	260	250	270	270	270	260
Kent	995	1,065	1,120	1,165	1,190	1,240	1,205	1,155	1,170	1,120	1,235
Kingston-upon-Hull	235	240	255	330	370	355	390	360	285	370	345
Kingston-upon-Thames	115	105	115	110	115	120	135	120	140	155	165
Kirklees	295	300	335	345	365	380	365	365	360	385	400
Knowsley	125	120	130	150	155	155	165	165	160	140	85
Lambeth	470	295	250	265	295	285	285	285	315	320	355
Lancashire	685	715	735	750	750	790	840	795	865	945	1,015
Leeds	520	550	555	600	620	625	655	670	680	680	595
Leicester	315	320	360	375	355	385	385	385	410	425	440
Leicestershire	295	295	290	290	285	300	290	280	265	295	295
Lewisham	285	285	275	305	265	270	305	310	305	295	300
Lincolnshire	335	400	350	355	350	355	370	375	400	410	425
Liverpool	450	425	430	440	420	400	425	495	485	505	495
Luton	140	175	140	155	145	155	180	120	125	135	120
Manchester	510	520	510	490	515	560	580	585	605	545	560
Medway Towns	175	185	190	190	190	200	205	220	210	210	225
Merton	100	85	90	130	110	100	140	140	140	135	145
Middlesbrough	160	165	195	205	235	240	265	265	250	275	300
Milton Keynes	125	140	160	160	155	170	165	190	185	185	190
North East Lincolnshire	90	85	120	145	125	115	130	105	110	105	115
North Lincolnshire	95	90	100	115	125	130	145	150	135	170	235
Newcastle upon Tyne	330	345	345	350	325	315	350	385	420	440	465
Newham	275	270	245	250	295	315	340	375	415	345	280
Norfolk	520	510	540	555	605	620	605	590	625	600	615
North Somerset	135	125	130	145	165	160	165	180	165	175	180
North Tyneside	170	190	170	180	210	175	180	185	205	215	100
North Yorkshire	305	310	340	380	420	470	470	470	440	460	460
Northamptonshire	275	365	410	655	345	405	430	430	445	440	245
Northumberland	280	305	275	195	195	220	215	220	210	200	205
Nottingham	375	385	370	380	385	335	330	315	345	340	340
Nottinghamshire	485	505	545	565	605	615	630	620	625	530	640
Oldham	155	185	190	195	190	160	200	230	190	230	215
Oxfordshire	390	405	390	395	420	425	430	440	465	475	465
Peterborough	75	105	70	85	75	95	105	95	105	120	115
Plymouth	210	200	215	225	245	225	215	220	250	280	280
Poole	100	125	125	120	120	120	130	130	125	145	145

Number of social workers (whole time equivalent) employed by social services departments in England by council from 2000 to 2010

As at 30 September	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Portsmouth	150	170	165	175	165	190	180	190	100	100	220
Reading	120	120	115	120	100	105	105	105	100	115	135
Redbridge	115	125	130	140	145	185	190	230	195	215	205
Redcar and Cleveland	120	125	125	125	120	120	125	135	140	160	135
Richmond upon Thames	115	90	120	110	115	115	125	130	120	125	110
Rochdale	160	175	180	190	205	195	200	200	195	175	145
Rotherham	220	245	270	270	260	230	215	255	250	275	305
Rutland	10	10	10	15	15	20	20	20	20	25	20
Salford	235	220	245	270	270	280	315	370	365	400	390
Sandwell	230	120	225	225	260	235	280	300	270	265	270
Sefton	215	200	205	215	220	245	250	255	225	255	255
Sheffield	460	475	475	490	560	570	635	645	550	650	710
Shropshire	170	185	190	210	215	245	210	195	195	200	200
Slough	70	85	80	115	120	120	135	145	125	130	125
Solihull	170	155	165	170	155	150	170	135	140	155	165
Somerset	375	390	405	420	415	415	440	415	405	420	420
South Gloucestershire	140	155	155	155	160	150	185	185	200	200	195
South Tyneside	130	145	175	195	225	240	230	235	230	110	75
Southampton	185	220	220	145	255	215	215	255	250	270	255
Southend	115	125	130	130	110	110	135	130	140	150	170
Southwark	300	315	335	355	390	410	455	465	455	435	465
St Helens	140	125	150	150	165	170	160	155	145	160	170
Staffordshire	580	560	580	630	655	770	775	760	795	765	465
Stockport	n/a	205	210	210	230	235	240	255	280	305	315
Stockton-on-Tees	145	145	n/a	140	140	150	150	155	205	230	195
Stoke-on-Trent	275	255	265	245	270	245	285	295	295	255	275
Suffolk	340	335	395	385	465	450	430	380	495	515	545
Sunderland	275	310	345	355	295	310	310	320	310	320	375
Surrey	560	580	600	615	555	655	710	645	730	730	685
Sutton	110	130	155	145	145	145	160	160	170	180	175
Swindon	150	165	140	135	160	145	160	165	140	150	160
Tameside	140	145	160	170	160	160	180	185	185	200	215
Telford and Wrekin	160	155	150	150	165	180	180	180	190	185	210
Thurrock	105	125	110	125	165	170	175	170	160	145	155
Torbay	105	115	125	125	145	140	110	95	95	95	95
Tower Hamlets	220	240	265	275	310	365	350	360	320	380	390
Trafford	135	145	140	150	145	155	180	180	185	195	205
Wakefield	325	335	335	335	305	320	315	350	345	350	335
Walsall	240	260	235	195	255	245	260	265	250	255	295
Waltham Forest	205	195	195	215	240	210	265	210	190	240	280
Wandsworth	275	280	275	260	245	245	245	260	275	300	300
Warrington	110	125	140	170	170	175	180	175	180	180	190
Warwickshire	n/a	340	370	425	385	380	370	380	390	435	455
West Berkshire	80	80	85	110	95	110	110	120	110	115	115
West Sussex	425	440	475	505	505	465	530	510	560	615	625
Westminster	310	305	325	325	305	345	350	365	335	325	305
Wigan	275	305	315	335	230	260	250	320	260	290	295
Wiltshire	265	235	230	240	245	270	275	255	285	220	270
Windsor and Maidenhead	80	60	60	75	80	90	85	90	85	80	100
Wirral	270	260	265	255	280	300	315	335	335	330	360
Wokingham	85	95	95	85	105	105	105	110	110	105	100
Wolverhampton	175	150	200	205	220	210	225	215	240	230	220
Worcestershire	385	380	385	400	420	390	420	430	430	420	470
York	110	105	155	125	150	120	115	70	135	185	180

n/a = Data not available. Estimates have been used to produce England figures.

[1] The sum of the council data may not add up to the England total due to rounding.

[2] In April 2009 Bedfordshire and Cheshire were split into four councils "Bedford" and "Central Bedfordshire", and "Cheshire East" and "Cheshire West and Chester" respective.

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 5.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Saudi Arabia

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1376W, on visits abroad: Saudi Arabia, what official meetings or functions the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State attended; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* outcome was of each. [66528]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Lord Marland met a variety of British businesses during a dinner on his arrival on 29 May 2011. The next day he attended the International Energy Forum where he met Noe Van Hulst, Secretary General. Later he met Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh, Dr Waleed Abulfaraj, VP, King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE) and Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Assistant Minister for Petroleum Affairs. Finally, he visited King Saud University and met the President, Dr Abdullah al Othman.

The purpose of the meetings was to strengthen the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia on energy, commercial and other bilateral issues. This included reinforcing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Gulf Initiative, discussing oil and gas issues and exploring opportunities for the British and Saudi governments to support the private sector in driving sustainable and mutually beneficial growth.

The outcome of the meetings was a strengthened producer-consumer dialogue on a wide range of energy issues, including oil and gas market evolution and nuclear projects. He opened talks on potential major commercial deals, and reported back to the Government on new commercial opportunities. He was also able to inform major Gulf investors about key UK inward investment opportunities which have laid essential groundwork for his future follow-up visit with a trade and investment delegation in his capacity as chairman of the ambassadors' network.

JUSTICE

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution: Health Services

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice why there has been a reduction in the budget cut of the medical services at Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution. [67597]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The 2010-11 health care budget at Her Majesty's Prison Young Offenders Institute Lancaster Farms (HMP YOI Lancaster Farms) was reduced by £562,000. This represents a 29% reduction in the health care budget issued to HMP YOI Lancaster Farms and directly correlates to the removal of 130 places for people under the age of 18 by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

The YJB's decision to remove 130 places, and the funding adjustment itself, reflect the current absence of young people under 18 being held at HMP YOI Lancaster Farms. The Department and NHS North Lancashire are confident that appropriate services are deliverable within the confines of revised funding.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 12 July 2011

DEFENCE

MOD Bicester

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money MOD Bicester has paid to *(a)* Palletways (3PL Contract), *(b)* Pertemps Employment Agency and *(c)* City Sprint and other private couriers since the decision to implement the closure of regional distribution centres; and if he will make a statement. [52538]

[Official Report, 28 April 2011, Vol. 527, c. 569W.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd (Mr Llwyd) on 28 April 2011. I regret that because of an administrative error, some of the figures for payments to private couriers were omitted.

The full answer given was as follows:

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 April 2011]*: The total payments made to Palletways, Pertemps Employment Agency and private couriers (including City Sprint) since late 2007 when the regional distribution centres were closed, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Company	FY2007-08 (3 months)	FY2008-09	FY2009-10	Total
Palletways	0.547	1.917	2.134	4.598
Pertemps	0	3.439	2.731	6.170
Private couriers	0.880	—	—	—

As a direct result of the decision to close the regional distribution centres and centralise distribution activities at Bicester and Donnington with greater use of third party logistics contractors, annual net savings of around £4 million have been achieved.

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 April 2011]*: The total payments made to Palletways, Pertemps Employment Agency and private couriers (including City Sprint) since late 2007 when the regional distribution centres were closed, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Company	FY2007-08 (3 months)	FY2008-09	FY2009-10	Total
Palletways	0.547	1.917	2.134	4.598
Pertemps	0	3.439	2.731	6.170
Private couriers	0.880	**2.179**	**1.440**	**3.707**[1]

As a direct result of the decision to close the regional distribution centres and centralise distribution activities at Bicester and Donnington with greater use of third party logistics contractors, annual net savings of around £4 million have been achieved.

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 August 2011, Vol. 531, c. 13-14MC.]*

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 13 July 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing (Armed Forces Personnel)

The following are the answers given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), to questions from the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr Gray) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 20 June 2011.

2. **Mr James Gray** (North Wiltshire) (Con): What plans he has to provide support through his Department's housing policy to serving and former members of the armed forces. [60274]

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I am absolutely determined to ensure that serving and former serving personnel from the armed forces are treated properly when it comes to housing on their return.

Mr Gray: Serving men and women form a disproportionately large part of those who are homeless or rough sleepers. I therefore very much welcome the Government's notification that they are a priority group under the Firstbuy scheme. However, many of them cannot afford to buy a house at all. Will the Minister now consider whether he can bring pressure to bear on local authorities, so that serving men and women are also designated as a priority for local authority housing?

Grant Shapps: I do not just want to remove the housing disadvantage for those who have served in the military; I want to put them at a positive advantage. That is why we have announced today that they will receive that priority in the Firstbuy scheme. I can also tell my hon. Friend that they will be a priority in the social housing allocation list. Also, if I may correct one point, the new figures for rough sleepers out today from CHAIN—the Combined Homeless and Information Network—show that just 2% of those who have served previously in the military are on the streets.

[Official Report, 20 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 3-4.]

Letter of correction from Mr Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in an oral answer given on 20 June 2011. The correct answer to the follow-up question should have been:

Grant Shapps: I do not just want to remove the housing disadvantage for those who have served in the military; I want to put them at a positive advantage. That is why we have announced today that they will receive that priority in the Firstbuy scheme. I can also tell my hon. Friend that they will be a priority in the social housing allocation list. Also, if I may correct one point, the new figures for rough sleepers out today from CHAIN—the Combined Homeless and Information Network—show that just **3% of UK people** on the streets have served previously in the military.

Social Housing (England)

The following is an extract from the response given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), to speeches from the hon. Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy) and the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr Leech) during the Westminster Hall Debate on Social Housing (England) on 28 June 2011.

Grant Shapps: The issue of under-occupancy and empty homes was raised. I passionately believe in trying to solve the equation of 430,000 people under-occupying while nearly 250,000 are overcrowded. I have provided some money, time and resources in order for the Chartered Institute of Housing to assist with that issue.

[Official Report, 28 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 216WH.]

Letter of correction from Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 28 June 2011. The figures given on under-occupancy and overcrowding in the response were incorrect.

The correct response should have been:

Grant Shapps: The issue of under-occupancy and empty homes was raised. I passionately believe in trying to solve the equation of **just over 420,000 households** under-occupying while **over 270,000** are overcrowded. I have provided some money, time and resources in order for the Chartered Institute of Housing to assist with that issue.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 14 July 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Staff

15. **Mr Spellar:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff were employed in his office on *(a)* 5 July 2010 and *(b)* the most recent date for which figures are available. [63501]

[Official Report, 5 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 1161W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Clegg:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar) on 5 July 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

The Deputy Prime Minister: There were 14 members of staff employed in my private office on 31 July 2010. The precise figures for 5 July 2010 are not available. There were 17 members of staff employed in my private office on 30 June 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

The Deputy Prime Minister: There were 14 members of staff employed in my private office on 31 July 2010. The precise figures for 5 July 2010 are not available. There were **16** members of staff employed in my private office on 30 June 2011.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 19 July 2011

DEFENCE

Air Force

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the risk management strategy prepared by the Environmental Science Group in relation to the proposal to close the RAF ordnance clearance operations at Goswick Sands near Berwick-upon-Tweed; and what revisions to the report took place after the first version was considered by the Royal Air Force. [50443]

[Official Report, 26 April 2011, Vol. 527, c. 61-62W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith) on 26 April 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Nick Harvey: A copy of the risk management strategy for the former air weapons range at Goswick Sands will be placed in the Library of the House.

The risk management strategy was written at the request of the RAF by the Ministry of Defence's Environmental Science Group (ESG). RAF subject matter experts and other stakeholders were consulted and a number of corrections were incorporated into the final document within Table 8.3. These downgraded the risk level of an accidental explosion resulting from contact with horses on the beach or deliberate tampering.

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: A copy of the risk management strategy for the former air weapons range at Goswick Sands will be placed in the Library of the House.

The risk management strategy was written at the request of the RAF by the Ministry of Defence's Environmental Science Group (ESG). RAF subject matter experts and other stakeholders were consulted and a number of corrections were incorporated into the final document within Table 8.3. These downgraded the risk level of an accidental explosion resulting from contact with horses on the beach or deliberate tampering. **The risk level was also reduced for other users including walkers and other recreational users, people digging with bucket and spade, bait diggers, fishermen, recreational off roaders, farmers and persons lighting fires and barbeques.**

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 20 July 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Serious Organised Crime: Finance

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Serious Organised Crime Agency was in each year since its inception. [47253]

[Official Report, 1 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 559-60W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Herbert:

Two errors have been identified in the table accompanying the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Belfast North (Mr Dodds) on 1 April 2011. The figures for 2006-07 and 2010-11 were incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Nick Herbert: The information is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	427.6
2007-08	444.7
2008-09	474.7
2009-10	478.0
2010-11	469.8

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Herbert: The information is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	**426.4**
2007-08	444.7
2008-09	474.7
2009-10	478.0
2010-11	**462.8**

DEFENCE

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons was established; [54468]

(2) what the purpose and function is of the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons; [54469]

(3) what the budget contribution from his Department was for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons under each budget heading in 2010-11; [54470]

(4) what plans he has for future levels of funding for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons; [54471]

(5) how many staff of his Department work for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54472]

[Official Report, 10 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 1081-82W.]

Letter of correction from Andrew Robathan:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy) on 10 May 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Robathan: The Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) was approved as a non-departmental public body in June 2009 and will be established soon. It is expected to be established later this year and it will continue the work previously undertaken by the Defence Science Advisory Council Subcommittee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL).

SACMILL's purpose will be to provide: advice on the biophysical, biomechanical, pathological and clinical aspects of generic classes of Less Lethal Weapons; independent statements on the medical implications of use of specific Less Lethal Weapons; advice on the risk of injury from specific Less Lethal Weapons systems striking specific areas of the body in a format that will assist those responsible for developing policy and, separately, guidance to users, as well as operational users themselves in making tactical decisions.

As an advisory non-departmental public body it will advise Ministers, but not employ staff or incur expenditure on its own account. The Surgeon General will be a member of the Executive Committee and will provide the secretariat functions for the committee from existing full-time HQ Surgeon General Staff. In addition, the committee may draw on the pool of expertise found within the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments for specific tasks.

The total cost to the Department for DOMILL legacy work undertaken during the financial year 2010-11 was £39,355.56, principally for travel and subsistence costs. Work is currently under way to finalise the tasking arrangements for the financial year 2011-12; a similar level of expenditure as the previous year is expected.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: The Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) was approved as a non-departmental public body in June 2009 and will be established soon. It is expected to be established later this year and it will continue the work previously undertaken by the Defence Science Advisory Council Subcommittee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL).

SACMILL's purpose will be to provide: advice on the biophysical, biomechanical, pathological and clinical aspects of generic classes of Less Lethal Weapons; independent statements on the medical implications of use of specific Less Lethal Weapons; advice on the risk of injury from specific Less Lethal Weapons systems striking specific areas of the body in a format that will assist those responsible for developing policy and, separately, guidance to users, as well as operational users themselves in making tactical decisions.

As an advisory non-departmental public body it will advise Ministers, but not employ staff or incur expenditure on its own account. The Surgeon General will be a member of the Executive Committee and will provide the secretariat functions for the committee from existing full-time HQ Surgeon General Staff. In addition, the committee may draw on the pool of expertise found within the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments for specific tasks.

The total cost to the Department for DOMILL legacy work undertaken during the financial year 2010-11 was £39,355.56, **principally for Defence Science and Technology Laboratory daily rate staff costs.** Work is currently under way to finalise the tasking arrangements for the financial year 2011-12; a similar level of expenditure as the previous year is expected.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 11 August 2011

DEFENCE

MOD Bicester

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money MOD Bicester has paid to *(a)* Palletways (3PL Contract), *(b)* Pertemps Employment Agency and *(c)* City Sprint and other private couriers since the decision to implement the closure of regional distribution centres; and if he will make a statement. [52538]

[Official Report, 12 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 1-2MC.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

A further error has been identified in the ministerial correction given to the right hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd (Mr Llwyd) on 12 July 2011. I regret that because of an administrative error, the figures were incorrectly totalled.

The previous correction given was as follows:

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The total payments made to Palletways, Pertemps Employment Agency and private couriers (including City Sprint) since late 2007 when the regional distribution centres were closed, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Company	*FY2007-08 (3 months)*	*FY2008-09*	*FY2009-10*	*Total*
Palletways	0.547	1.917	2.134	4.598
Pertemps	0	3.439	2.731	6.170
Private couriers	0.880	2.179	1.440	3.707

As a direct result of the decision to close the regional distribution centres and centralise distribution activities at Bicester and Donnington with greater use of third party logistics contractors, annual net savings of around £4 million have been achieved.

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The total payments made to Palletways, Pertemps Employment Agency and private couriers (including City Sprint) since late 2007 when the regional distribution centres were closed, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Company	*FY2007-08 (3 months)*	*FY2008-09*	*FY2009-10*	*Total*
Palletways	0.547	1.917	2.134	4.598
Pertemps	0	3.439	2.731	6.170
Private couriers	0.880	2.179	1.440	**4.499**

As a direct result of the decision to close the regional distribution centres and centralise distribution activities at Bicester and Donnington with greater use of third party logistics contractors, annual net savings of around £4 million have been achieved.